

American nuclear experts in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — A team of 20 U.S. government scientists has arrived for a tour of the Soviet Union's chief nuclear testing range, TASS reported Saturday. The delegation, led by U.S. Assistant Defence Secretary Robert Barker, arrived Friday night and planned to fly to the Semipalatinsk test range in Kazakhstan on Sunday, the official news service said. Mr. Barker, whose expertise is in nuclear energy, met Saturday with Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky to review their governments' nuclear testing policies. TASS said. The Soviet Union has proposed a test moratorium while the two nations are involved in full-scale negotiations in Geneva on a treaty banning all test explosions. Kremlin officials contend testing runs counter to the superpowers' efforts to scale back nuclear weapons development and dismantle those arms that are already deployed. But U.S. officials claim some nuclear testing is necessary to ensure the safety of existing weaponry and to further development of the "Star Wars" missile defence system.

Assad meets Junblatt on helicopter row

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met Lebanese socialist leader Walid Junblatt Saturday to discuss the situation in Lebanon, the Syrian news agency (SANA) reported. It gave no details, but Lebanese sources in Beirut said Mr. Junblatt, leader of the mostly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), discussed ways to end a dispute with the Lebanese military over a stolen helicopter. A deserting Druze air force officer flew the helicopter gunship to PSP territory 11 days ago, saying the armed forces were biased in favour of President Amin Gemayel. Forces loyal to Mr. Gemayel imposed a blockade on PSP ports south of Beirut after the PSP refused to return the helicopter. The PSP declared its own blockade on rightist-held ports north of Beirut. PSP officials said Syria, the main power-broker in Lebanon, was trying to prevent the row from escalating.

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West Bank exams postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — Mid-term high school exams in the West Bank has been postponed indefinitely due to the ongoing uprising in the occupied territories, according to a decision taken by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Saturday. The postponement was prompted by Israel's harsh measures that prevent students from attending the exams, Mr. Hindawi announced. The exams were due to start today.

Hayden to visit Africa and Mideast

CANBERRA (AP) — Foreign Minister Bill Hayden will visit 11 countries in Africa and the Middle East this month, it was announced. A Foreign Ministry statement issued late Friday said Mr. Hayden would visit Mauritius, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, the Yemen Arab Republic, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Israel and the Maldives for discussions on regional and bilateral issues. Dates for the tour were not announced.

Resistance attacks SLA post

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese fighters said Saturday they attacked a post manned by militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) with rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns on Friday night. The Lebanese National Resistance, a coalition of Lebanese and Palestinian fighters, made no reference to casualties. Its statement said the SLA post was at the village of Qantara, near Marjayoun town, just outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Ousted Burundi leader wants to return home

BRUSSELS (R) — Burundi's former president, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, toppled in a coup last September and now living in a Brussels hotel, said on Saturday he would ask Belgium to deport him back home. The Belgian airline Sabena refused to allow Mr. Bagaza on to a scheduled flight to Burundi from Brussels on Friday night because the new government in the East African country had told it the deposed leader was not welcome, a Sabena official said.

Los Angeles synagogue attacked

LOS ANGELES (R) — Unknown assailants started fires in a synagogue on Friday after temple officials received threatening telephone calls criticising Israeli military action against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, police said. Three fires were started in temple Beth Tikvah in the Los Angeles suburb of Fullerton but all were extinguished before causing serious damage, police Sergeant Jeff Roop said. Ani Modiano, a synagogue official, said the temple staff received at least six threatening telephone calls before the fires.

Three new portfolios created; eight new ministers brought in to replace outgoing six; several ministries divided or merged

Cabinet expanded and reshuffled

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Royal Decree was issued on Saturday endorsing a Cabinet expansion and reshuffle under which three new ministries were established, eight new ministers were brought in and six portfolios were affected in the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The three new ministries are: water and irrigation, culture and national heritage, and housing. The eight new ministers, six of whom are named to serve in the Cabinet for the first time, were sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein at a ceremony at the

Royal Palace in the presence of Mr. Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and other senior Royal Court officials.

Earlier, the King accepted the resignations of the six ministers who left the Cabinet and expressed

his appreciation for their services for the country and the citizens, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Under the rearrangement, the second in Mr. Rifai's fourth term as prime minister, two ministers changed portfolios. The key ministries of foreign affairs, interior, finance and occupied territories affairs were left unchanged and several ministries were split up or merged.

While the Ministry of Information, Tourism and Culture was divided into three different portfolios, the Ministry of Transport was merged with the Ministry of

(Continued on page 5)

Occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip observe total business and school strike

Israelis shoot dead another Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian demonstrator and wounded at least 15 during widespread anti-occupation protests and a full-scale commercial and school strike in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Saturday.

A military spokesman said troops opened fire to disperse demonstrators in two separate protests in Khan Younis, in the Gaza Strip.

An Arab reporter in Gaza City identified the dead man as Bassem Hader Musallem, 17, a resident of the Khan Younis refugee camp. He was killed after protesters marched from the nearby village of Bani Suhaila to downtown Khan Younis, where they clashed with Israeli troops.

The Palestine Press Service, which monitors events in the occupied territories, said another woman was shot in the chest during a demonstration in the town.

Relief workers said at least 13 people were hurt.

Israeli troops had sealed off the entire 350-square-kilometre Gaza Strip to reporters as Palestinians

hurled stones, blocked roads and fled the Palestinian flag.

The new outbreak of protests erupted as U.N. Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding began a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories.

Three demonstrators at Deir Al Balah were wounded in the legs and a fourth hurt by a rubber bullet at Rafah, near the Egyptian border.

Soldiers at the entrance to the Gaza Strip told reporters the territory was a closed military area off limits to reporters.

Local residents and newsmen already in the strip when it was sealed said there were violent protests at the towns of Rafah and Khan Younis and armoured personnel carriers were guarding the entrances to several Palestinian refugee camps.

Curfews were imposed on Nuseirat and Khan Younis refugee camps and the curfew extended at Boureij camp, closed since troops shot dead a protester there on Friday.

Businesses throughout the area were closed in apparent response to a strike call by the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement and protesters hurled stones

at troops and Arab motorists heading for work in Israel, residents said.

From an army roadblock on the main coastal road, thick clouds of black smoke could be seen rising from towns and refugee camps as residents barricaded roads with blazing tyres.

In the West Bank, soldiers clamped curfews on the Balata and Amari refugee camps and most businesses were closed, sources said.

A group of U.S. senators dropped plans to visit refugee camps in the occupied territories as likely to provoke more protests.

Mr. Goulding is scheduled to meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday and begin talks with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

U.N. spokeswoman Christine DeBach told the AP there were no cars on the streets of the Gaza Strip and tensions were high because of the stay-at-home strike called by the Islamic Jihad.

The fundamentalist organisation called on residents to stay indoors as a show of solidarity with the Palestinians detained

(Continued on page 5)



Eight newly appointed ministers are sworn in Saturday before His Majesty King Hussein in the presence (from the King's left) of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh. The eight ministers are (from left to right): Labour and Social Development Minister Rashid Ureikat, Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh, Minister of Tourism

Zuhair Ajlouni, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa, Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Fayez Tarawneh, and Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat and Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

His Majesty appoints new Upper House



Ahmad Al Lawzi

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday issued a Royal Decree naming a new Upper House of Parliament (Senate). The decree noted that the present Senate had served its full four-year term and renewed the mandate of Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi as speaker of the 30-member Senate which will serve for the next four years.

The decree retained 27 members of the Senate and replaced three members. The newly appointed senators are Mr. Mohammad Kamal, who now serves as Jordan's ambassador to

the U.S., Mr. Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani, who is now the Kingdom's ambassador in Saudi Arabia, and Mr. Faridoun Hikmat.

The three leaving the Senate are Mr. Wasfi Mirza, Mr. Ali Hassan Odeh and Mr. Farid Al Saad.

The following is a list of the members of the new Upper House:

Mr. Zaid Rifai, Mr. Bahjat Talhouni, Mr. Ahmad Lawzi, Mr. Mudar Badran, Mr. Ahmad Tarawneh, Mr. Anistas Hanania, Mr. Abdul Rahman Khalifa, Mr.

Hikmat Al Masri, Mr. Walid Salah, Mr. Hazem Nuseibeh, Mr. Subhi Amin Amr, Mr. Khalil Al Salem, Mr. Hassan Al Kayed, Mr. Thouqan Hindawi, Mr. Akram Zu'eiter, Mr. Habes Majali, Mr. Amer Khammash, Mr. Mohammad Rasoul Keilani, Mr. Rashid Ureikat, Mr. Mohammad Odeh Qar'an, Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman, Mr. Noufan Al Saud, Mr. Jum'a Hammad, Mr. Nayef Al Khreishe, Mr. Hayel Surur, Mr. Burjus Al Hadid, Mr. Mohammad Ali Budeir, Mr. Salem Ibn Njad, Mr. Mohammad Kamal and Mr. Faridoun Hikmat.

Mubarak arrives in Riyadh on visit expected to focus on Iran-Iraq war

RIYADH (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Saudi Arabia on Saturday at the start of a week-long tour of Arab Gulf states intended to cement Cairo's military and political role in the Arab World.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Mubarak and King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz were expected to discuss Middle East peace efforts, the potential Iranian threat to Gulf states and joint Arab military production.

After Saudi Arabia, Mr. Mubarak's tour will take him to the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman.

The tour is a prelude to Mr. Mubarak's Jan. 28 talks in Washington with President Ronald Reagan, after scheduled meetings with leaders of France, Italy, West Germany and Britain.

Officials here said Mr. Mubarak's talks with King Fahd were expected to focus on what Egypt could do to help the Gulf countries deter Iranian threats to the Arab countries along the Gulf littoral. They said Mr. Mubarak was expected to offer unlimited military and political defence assistance but stop short of sending combatants.

Mr. Mubarak was asked last week by the Kuwait newspaper



Hosni Mubarak

occurred in a stampede.

He rejected as an "act of aggression" the Iranian demand that the Saudi royal family be stripped of the guardianship of Islam's holiest shrines.

Iraqis fend off Iranian assault on disused oil terminal in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq on Saturday reported a major clash with Iranian forces at a disused deep-water oil terminal in the northern Gulf.

A military communique carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi forces beat off an Iranian attack on Friday night, sinking 13 of the 50 assault craft.

The communique said Iraq used fighter planes, helicopter gunships and artillery in repulsing the attack on the terminal, some 30 kilometres from the Fao oil terminal occupied by the Iranians in February 1986.

Iran also reported the raid, claiming its Revolutionary Guards set three Iraqi vessels ablaze, killed or wounded at least 100 Iraqi troops, and destroyed installations at Al Bajr and Al Omaya platforms.

Neither side admitted losing any vessels in the attack.

The deep-water terminal was built to be Iraq's major oil export outlet in the Gulf but has been inoperative since the early days of the seven-year-long war.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Iranian artillery would shell Iraqi cities in retaliation for an Iraqi raid Friday on a refinery near the

northwestern city of Tabriz. Shortly after the Tehran announcement, INA said Iranian shells crashed into the war-battered southern city of Basra, killing seven people, injuring another 27, and damaging 12 houses and a nursery school.

Iraq said the Tabriz oil refinery was set ablaze in the attack. Tehran said the raid damaged property of a "non-military" nature but caused no casualties.

A rare lull in attacks on merchant vessels by the two nations entered an eighth day, with shipping sources calling it an "unofficial ceasefire" in the Gulf tanker war.

Iran released a West German freighter, the 31,205-ton Norasia Pearl, seized Dec. 28 in search for Iraqi-bound cargo, said shipping sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

INA quoted a military spokesman as saying: "We have the ability to destroy any Iranian city." He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile shipping executives in the region, speaking on condition of anonymity, alluded to an "unofficial ceasefire" in the Gulf tanker war.

"Iraq had been relentless with

its raids on Iranian tanker routes, precipitating the retaliatory strikes by the Iranians. The Iraqis have made no claims since Jan. 1, and until they do, we can sit back and relax," said one Dubai-based shipping executive.

Shipping executives, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said Iran has released the Norasia Pearl, one of hundreds of ships it has intercepted in the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

They said they saw the release as a possible conciliatory gesture. One of the sources said the German crew of the vessel was unharmed and the cargo intact.

Envoys from Syria, which backs Iran, on Friday ended a tour of the Gulf states. Diplomats said they had convinced Iran to delay a major winter offensive against Iraq in preparation for talks between Iran and Arab Gulf states.

The Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat reported that foreign ministers of the Gulf states would meet in Damascus with their Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, to discuss ending the Gulf war and attacks on shipping.

Carlucci says small boats are greater threat than mines, page 2.

Raimond pays lightning visit to Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond made a lightning visit to Tunisia on Saturday, brushing aside reported disagreements with the new government here and the Tunis-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"There's not a single cloud in Franco-Tunisian relations," Mr. Raimond told reporters after a five-hour visit, the first by a French cabinet minister since Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali replaced ageing Habib Bourguiba two months ago.

He denied a report in the French daily Le Monde that he put off a planned visit here three weeks ago, at Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's request, to avoid meeting PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

"I have the best relations with the PLO and I would have accepted to meet Arafat," he told an airport news conference.

Mr. Arafat is at present in Baghdad, chairing a meeting of the PLO leadership (See Page 2).

Mr. Raimond, who held talks with Mr. Ibn Ali, praised what he called Tunisia's pragmatic approach to diplomacy.

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UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE GUN: A group of Palestinians arrested by the Israeli army

in the occupied West Bank awaits transfer to detention camps.

2 Home Middle East news

Kuwait will go to war if forced to — Sheikh Saad

CAIRO (R) — Kuwait, which has been target of several missile attacks blamed on Iran, will fight if it faces aggression, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said in an interview published on Saturday.

"In handling all problems, Kuwait is keen on a policy of wisdom, discernment, moderation, understanding and... patience," Sheikh Saad told the mass circulation weekly Akhbar Al Yom.

"But if we are forced to fight or if our lands become subject to aggression, we shall not hesitate even for one minute to defend them with our souls and blood," he added.

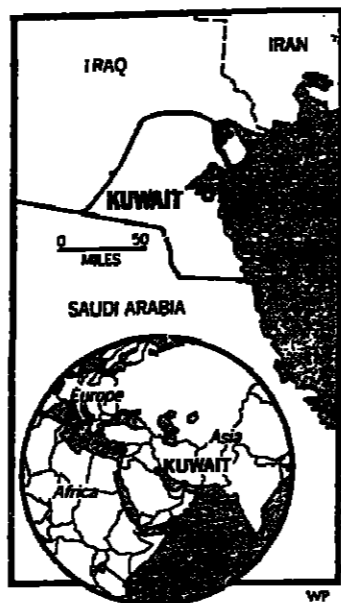
The five other nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have made clear they supported Kuwait following the missile

strikes blamed on Iran, he said. Kuwait and the Gulf Arab states support Iraq in its conflict with Iran.

Asked about a campaign for Kuwaitis to volunteer for civil defence work, Sheikh Saad said: "We must be prepared for all possibilities, but we are satisfied with the strength of our domestic front."

Commenting on an Egyptian arms show held in Kuwait last month, he called for collective Arab effort to help develop an Arab military industry.

Kuwait, which resumed relations with Egypt in November



along with eight Arab states after a break of eight years over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, was reported to have asked for a stake in Egypt's state-owned Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI), the main arms manufacturing group.

He said Kuwait would continue boosting investments in Egypt. President Hosni Mubarak, who pledged full support for Kuwait, will visit the Gulf emirate on Monday during a tour of the six GCC members.

Israel probes Siniora over call for boycott

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police have begun investigating a Palestinian leader who has urged a boycott of Israeli products to protest tough measures against demonstrators in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel Radio reported that government Attorney-General Yosef Harish recommended the investigation of Hanna Siniora, editor of the pro-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) daily, Al Fajr.

Mr. Siniora could be charged with incitement to rebellion, a crime carrying a five-year sentence, after he called for a four-stage boycott of the Israeli economy.

"The police called and ordered me to show up Saturday morning at Jerusalem district headquarters," Mr. Siniora told the Associated Press Friday. "My lawyer advised me to tell police I have nothing to say. What I am doing is legal. If there are accusations, I am ready to speak out in court."

Mr. Siniora described his programme as peaceful civil insurrection.

It was to begin Friday with a boycott of Israeli-made cigarettes. Mr. Siniora called on the Palestinians to eventually stop buying Israeli soft drinks, refuse to pay taxes, and stop working for Jewish employers.

Some Palestinian leaders were cool to Mr. Siniora's programme and Israel Radio reported there were no signs Friday that Palestinians were heeding his call.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin called Mr. Siniora "a PLO agent" and said he was "playing with fire since in the present circumstances a call to rebellion is adding fuel to the fire."

Jerusalem's Israeli Mayor Teddy Kolek was also outraged. "Siniora does not represent anyone, he is just a talented journalist and a Christian Arab," Kolek told Israel Radio. "The number of people who will heed his call can fit into a telephone booth."

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said the boycott would not work. "People will continue to buy because they want to live," Mr. Freij said on Israel Radio. "Here in the West Bank and Gaza we depend almost entirely on what we buy from Israel."

Mr. Siniora shrugged off the attacks. "I am fully confident Mr. Rabin has no case against me," he said.

Bush campaign dogged by Iran arms scandal

DES MOINES, Iowa (Agencies) — The arms-for-Iran scandal seems certain to dog Vice-President George Bush for the rest of this year's presidential campaign in spite of his efforts to put it behind him.

Mr. Bush said during a Republican presidential debate on Friday: "I have answered every question put to me save one and the one question is 'what did you tell the president of the United States'. And I shouldn't do that."

He added: "That confidentiality between the president and the vice-president should remain solid."

His rivals quickly made it clear they would press Mr. Bush for details of the part he played in planning the arms deal.

Bill Brock, campaign manager for Senate Republican leader Robert Dole told reporters after the two-hour debate: "The question hasn't been answered. The issue hasn't been addressed."

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, contesting the Republican nomination for the November presidential election, challenged Mr. Bush on the issue.

"What in heaven's name is going to happen next November if you are our standard bearer and the Democrats get after you on this subject?" he asked.

The debate among the six Republican candidates was considered critical to the outcome of local party votes in Iowa next month.

Mr. Bush, leading the battle for the Republican nomination, is way ahead in national opinion polls. But in Iowa he is as much as 15 points behind his chief rival

Sen. Dole. The other candidates, Gen. Haig, former television evangelist Pat Robertson, New York Representative Jack Kemp, former Delaware Governor Pierre Du Pont, are well behind nationally and in Iowa.

In the opening minutes of the session Mr. Bush told moderator James Gannon, editor of the Des Moines Register, that his newspaper had been unfair in its coverage.

The Register has published several stories this week suggesting Mr. Bush was more deeply involved in the arms deal than previously acknowledged.

Mr. Brock, ex-labour secretary, said a memo written by former National Security Director John Poindexter showed that Mr. Bush was aware that dealings with Iran amounted to swapping arms for U.S. hostages held by pro-Iranian Lebanese guerrillas as early as the spring of 1986.

Mr. Bush says he did not see the transaction in this light until he reviewed the record after the deal became public in November 1986.

Mr. Bush knew in advance of a trip by U.S. officials to Iran in 1986 to seek release of American hostages in Lebanon in return for a U.S. arms delivery, according to a National Security Council (NSC) memorandum.

But the memorandum does not specify whether Mr. Bush knew the purpose of the trip was to obtain release of all American hostages in Lebanon for the U.S. weapons delivery.

The NSC memorandum was among hundreds released last

summer by congressional committees investigating the Iran arms scandal but was overlooked until questions were raised this week on whether Mr. Bush knew more about the hostage trade than he has acknowledged.

The memorandum came under scrutiny again this week after the Washington Post quoted unidentified sources as saying Mr. Bush attended several dozen intelligence briefings at which the Iran sales were often discussed, and knew more about them than he had acknowledged.

The April 3, 1986, memorandum says: "If we can manage it, the VP would appreciate it if the Iran trip did not take place until he leaves Saudi Arabia. If that screws up planning too much, then he will understand that we can't do it."

The Iran trip, which was delayed until May 25, 1986, was the one at which another former National Security adviser, Robert McFarlane, said he had U.S. hostages then in Lebanon were supposed to be released for a delivery of U.S. weapons.

Mr. McFarlane testified that Iranians had promised release of all the hostages but at the meeting offered to obtain release of only some of them so Mr. McFarlane recommended the U.S. arms sales be halted.

Mr. Bush was in Saudi Arabia from April 5 to April 7, 1986, when Mr. McFarlane's Iran trip had originally been planned, to assure Saudi leaders that the United States would not allow the Iran-Iraq war to spread to other Middle East nations.

Meanwhile independent coun-

sel Lawrence Walsh is indicating a willingness to plea bargain with leading participants in the Iran-contra affair if such deals are needed to advance his investigation.

As the year-long inquiry heads toward expected criminal indictments, Walsh says his office is flexible about using the legal tools available to prosecutors to get to the bottom of the Iran-contra affair.

"The objective of the investigation remains to get the full story and to get it fairly and thoroughly," the veteran lawyer and former federal judge said in an interview Thursday.

Mr. Walsh declined to comment on his policy on plea bargains, saying only: "as to our tactics, there are ways of advancing the investigation. I think we tend to be flexible rather than rigid."

In the coming weeks, the grand jury that Mr. Walsh impaneled nearly a year ago is expected to return indictments against key operatives in the sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of proceeds to the Nicaraguan rebels during a congressional ban on military aid to the Contras.

Mr. Walsh declined to comment on the possibility of indictments but said, "the external activities that you are familiar with would suggest a maturing investigation."

Asked about his reputation for leaving no stones unturned, Mr. Walsh said: "I think when we say we're maturing the investigation, we are getting a lot of them turned over."

PLO ends Baghdad meeting with no decision on government in exile

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders ended nearly two days of meetings Saturday without making any announcement on the setting up of a government-in-exile.

A statement on the issue had been expected after the idea was mooted last month. Previously, the PLO had resisted setting up such a body because it could exacerbate internal disagreements.

Sources close to the meeting confirmed that the possibility of setting up a government-in-exile was discussed at length, but apparently no decision was reached on the issue.

The PLO leaders gathered in Baghdad make up the Central Council, the upper house of the Palestine National Council or parliament-in-exile.

The chief of the PLO office in Baghdad, Azam Al Ahmad, said a statement would be issued later in the day but its most important component would be a decision to set up a committee to "pursue developments in the occupied territories."

Mr. Ahmad said the committee would follow events in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which have been rocked by a month of violence.

Meanwhile, a PLO spokesman charged that Israeli troops stormed Palestinian camps in the Gaza Strip on Friday night using tanks for the first time since the riots started.

There was no immediate reaction to the report from the Israelis.

The commando spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "At 11 p.m. (1900 GMT) last night the Israeli troops stormed several camps in Gaza and Khan Yunis, supported by military armoured vehicles and tanks."

According to news reports Friday, Israeli soldiers opened fire at hundreds of revolting Palestinians in two separate clashes after Friday noon prayers. A 22-year-old Arab was killed and at least seven wounded, hospital officials said.

PLO chief Yasser Arafat on Saturday called for the deployment of U.N. forces to protect Palestinians from Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Arafat also said in an ABC television "Nightline" interview that PLO representatives meeting in Baghdad would discuss creation of a Palestinian government-in-exile.

He said he had already asked the U.N. Security Council to put protection of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on its agenda.

"What I am preferring is U.N. forces," he said.

He said U.N. forces were already near the area for operations in the Sinai peninsula, the Golan Heights between Syria and Israel, and in southern Lebanon. Asked what he wanted the

U.N. forces to do, Mr. Arafat said: "To participate. To do their duty to protect our people, our children, our women."

He said 68 Palestinians had been killed in recent violence in the occupied territories rather than the 25 reported by Israeli officials. He said 25 had been buried without their names being released.

Asked if the PLO had organised the violence in the occupied territories, he did not reply directly but implied the PLO had been involved.

"There is one people outside and inside our occupied territories, the Palestinian people," he said. "...We are one unit from the top to the bottom, from the leadership to the last child."

A senior PLO official quoted Saturday as saying Islamic activists have increased their protests in the Israeli-occupied territories following an agreement with the PLO.

"The Islamic movement in the Israeli-occupied land has participated in the demonstrations for the first time, after we reached a deal with them," said Salah Khalaf, as quoted in the daily UAE newspaper Al Bayan.

Mr. Khalaf, considered the no. 2 political figure in the PLO's mainstream Fatah Movement, said the PLO had given concessions to Islamic fundamentalists to encourage their participation in the protests, Al Bayan reported.

'Exiles expelled by France to please Iran, help hostages'

PARIS (AP) — A top official of Premier Jacques Chirac's political party has said the expulsion last month of more than a dozen anti-Khomeini Iranians was aimed at soothing tensions with Iran and helping obtain the release of French hostages.

Mr. Chirac's conservative government has said the 17 exiles, three of them Turkish Kurds, were expelled to Gabon on Dec. 8 because they were a threat to public order. It has consistently denied widespread reports that the expulsions were part of a deal with Iran to free French hostages in Lebanon.

The Iranians expelled are members or sympathisers of the People's Mujahadeen of Iran, considered the top opposition group to the Islamic Republic government of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Jacques Toubon, secretary-general of the Rally for the Republic Party (RPR), of which Mr. Chirac is president, criticised President Francois Mitterrand, a Socialist, for expressing sympathy

for those expelled and several dozen of their supporters who have been on hunger strike for the past month.

"The government made these decisions to contribute to smoothing over our relations with Iran, favour the settling of the hostage affair and contribute to assuring the security of the French; to guarantee what we have succeeded in obtaining over 16 months, that is, that there be no more attacks in our country," Mr. Toubon told reporters at a news conference.

Although he is not a cabinet minister or government official, Mr. Toubon is a close associate of Mr. Chirac and a key figure in the premier's undeclared bid for the presidency this spring.

The expulsions triggered protest hunger strikes in Paris, London and Washington, in solidarity with those expelled — on their own hunger strike in a Libreville hotel.

Carlucci says small boats greater threat than mines

ABOARD THE USS MOUNT VERNON IN THE GULF (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, saying that attacks from small boats now present a greater threat than mines to U.S. forces in the Gulf, reviewed minesweeping and Marine Corps operations with an eye to trimming them.

As he has since arriving in the Gulf on Monday, Mr. Carlucci denied reports from Washington that the United States has decided to withdraw the helicopter carrier Okinawa, a floating base for 700 marines and a helicopter minesweeping unit, and the battleship Iowa and two of her escort ships.

The United States currently maintains a force of some 30 navy ships in and near the Gulf.

A senior naval officer in Mr. Carlucci's party said the six navy minesweeping ships in the Gulf can perform the job more efficiently than the RH-53D helicopters, which are limited to daytime operations and kept close to the Okinawa by their need to refuel. The officer, who asked not to

be identified, said the navy has greatly improved its surveillance and intelligence ability to catch minelayers before they can drop their deadly cargo.

"There is certainly a different kind of threat than there was five months ago," Mr. Carlucci told reporters.

He said the threat had switched from mines laid in the waterway by Iran to speedboat attacks by Iranian Revolutionary Guards on merchant shipping. No such attacks have been launched against American flag ships.

"Five months ago, we were concerned about mine. By and large, the mine problem has been taken care of, although they could quickly come out and lay mines again," Mr. Carlucci said.

Mr. Carlucci, on his first visit to the Gulf region since being appointed defence secretary two months ago, has visited Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain and diplomats said he is reassuring Gulf Arab states of U.S. commitment to help them in the region.

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15:55	Dennis the Menace	06:45 Reflections
16:05	Children's programmes	06:50 Financial Review
16:25	Local programme	07:00 World News
16:50	Soccer	07:05 Happy Talk
17:10	Local arabiya programme	07:30 Stuart Colman's Record Hop
19:45	Programme review	07:45 Letter from America
19:55	News in Arabic	08:00 Newsweek
20:30	Arabic series	08:30 Sex and Society
21:30	Programme on Jordan	09:00 World News
22:00	T.V. Magazine (local)	09:20 24 Hours: News Summary
23:00	News Summary	09:30 From Our Own Correspondent
23:10	Close down	09:45 Sports World
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:00	Rue Carnot	09:50 Waveguide
18:30	L'Ecole des Faux	10:00 World News
19:00	News in French	10:05 Reflections
19:15	International Circus Festival	10:15 Sports World
19:30	News in Hebrew	10:45 A Personal Look at Remembrance
20:00	News in Arabic	11:00 World News
20:30	Farmington of the F.O.	11:05 The Sunday Papers
21:10	Omnibus: Homecoming (documentary)	11:15 Science in Action
22:00	News in English	11:30 Financial News: Look Ahead
22:30	Secret Army	11:45 Australia Round 12:00 News Summary: Sex and Society
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz FM & parlay on 850 KHz, SW Tel: 77111-19		12:15 Classical Record Review
07:00	Light Music	12:30 War Grave Commission Talk
07:30	Newsweek	12:30 Religious Service
08:00	Morning Show	13:00 World News
08:30	News Summary	13:05 News About Britain
11:00	In Concert	13:15 From Our Own Correspondent
11:30	News Summary	13:20 World News
12:00	Pop Talk	13:25 The Sunday Papers
13:00	News Summary	13:30 Musical Masters of the Baroque
13:30	Pop Session contd.	13:35 News About Britain
14:00	News Bulletin	13:45 From Our Own Correspondent
14:30	Instruments	14:00 News Summary: Play of the Week: Daisy Pulls It Off
14:50	Science Report	14:15 My Music
15:00	Concert Hour	14:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show
15:30	News Summary	15:00 News Summary
16:00	News Summary	15:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
16:30	Old Favourites	15:30 A Matter of Honour
16:50	News Summary	15:45 The Saudi Jones Request
17:00	News Summary	16:30 Back to Square One
17:30	News Summary	16:45 Taste of Blood
18:00	News Summary	17:00 Radio Newsweek
18:30	Rhythm and Blues	17:09 Commentary
19:00	Newsweek	17:15 Concert Hall
19:30	Date with a Star	18:00 World News
19:50	Evening Show	18:05 Reflections
21:00	News Summary	18:15 Housing the World
21:30	Evening Show continued	18:30 Letter from America
21:55	News Summary	19:00 World News
22:30	Evening Show continued	19:09 Commentary
23:00	News Summary	19:15 Jazz for the Aspiring
23:57	News Headline	19:45 Sports Roundup
24:00	Close Down	20:00 Newsweek
VOICE OF AMERICA		
MW 1280 & SW 7200, 9565, 1174, 11925 & 12710 Hz		20:30 My Music
06:00 News 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30 News 06:40 VOA Morning 06:50 News 07:00 VOA Morning 07:10 News 07:20 VOA Morning 07:30 News 07:40 VOA Morning 07:50 News 08:00 VOA Morning 08:10 News 08:20 VOA Morning 08:30 News 08:40 VOA Morning 08:50 News 09:00 VOA Morning 09:10 News 09:20 VOA Morning 09:30 News 09:40 VOA Morning 09:50 News 10:00 VOA Morning 10:10 News 10:20 VOA Morning 10:30 News 10:40 VOA Morning 10:50 News 11:00 VOA Morning 11:10 News 11:20 VOA Morning 11:30 News 11:40 VOA Morning 11:50 News 12:00 VOA Morning 12:10 News 12:20 VOA Morning 12:30 News 12:40 VOA Morning 12:50 News 13:00 VOA Morning 13:10 News 13:20 VOA Morning 13:30 News 13:40 VOA Morning 13:50 News 14:00 VOA Morning 14:10 News 14:20 VOA Morning 14:30 News 14:40 VOA Morning 14:50 News 15:00 VOA Morning 15:10 News 15:20 VOA Morning 15:30 News 15:40 VOA Morning 15:50 News 16:00 VOA Morning 16:10 News 16:20 VOA Morning 16:30 News 16:40 VOA Morning 16:50 News 17:00 VOA Morning 17:10 News 17:20 VOA Morning 17:30 News 17:40 VOA Morning 17:50 News 18:00 VOA Morning 18:10 News 18:20 VOA Morning 18:30 News 18:40 VOA Morning 18:50 News 19:00 VOA Morning 19:10 News 19:20 VOA Morning 19:30 News 19:40 VOA Morning 19:50 News 20:00 VOA Morning 20:10 News 20:20 VOA Morning 20:30 News 20:40 VOA Morning 20:50 News 21:00 VOA Morning 21:10 News 21:20 VOA Morning 21:30 News 21:40 VOA Morning 21:50 News 22:00 VOA Morning 22:10 News 22:20 VOA Morning 22:30 News 22:40 VOA Morning 22:50 News 23:00 VOA Morning 23:10 News 23:20 VOA Morning 23:30 News 23:40 VOA Morning 23:50 News 24:00 VOA Morning		21:00 News Summary: Classical Record Review
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	Opening hours 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664340.
CHILDREN'S SHOW	"Children's show entitled 'Brille le Soleil' at 10.30 a.m. at the Haya Arts Centre.
SERVICE CLUBS	The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Regency Palace hotel, 7.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7.30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.
CULTURAL CENTRES	Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661027/7 American Centre .. 641520 British Council .. 6361478 French Cultural Centre .. 637009 Goethe Institute .. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642049 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777 Haya Arts Centre .. 661016 Hussein Youth City .. 661016 Y.W.C.A. .. 641793 Y.W.M.A. .. 664251 Amman Municipal Library .. 637111 Univ. of Jordan .. 843535
MUSEUMS	"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by Jordanian artists. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	21-30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) 22-00 Bangkok (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	09:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 09:30 Berlin (IF) 10:00 Rome (MS) 10:30 Cairo (AZ) 11:00 Tripoli (LN) 11:30 Bahrain, Sharja (GF) 12:00 Jeddah (SV) 12:30 Kuwait (KU) 13:00 Athens (OA) 13:30 Frankfurt (LH) 14:00 London, Cairo (BA)
ARRIVALS JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	09:15 Agaba (RJ) 09:30 Kuwait (RJ) 09:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 09:55 Jeddah (RJ) 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:45 Cairo (RJ) 11:00 London (RJ) 11:30 Helsinki, Agaba (RJ) 11:45 Madrid (RJ) 11:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 12:00 Paris (RJ) 12:05 Frankfurt (RJ) 12:15 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	09:00 Berlin (IF) 09:30 Cairo (MS) 10:00 Damascus (AZ) 11:00 Kuwait (LN) 12:00 Sharja, Doha (GF) 12:30 Kuwait (KU) 13:00 Athens (OA) 13:30 Frankfurt (LH) 14:00 London, Cairo (BA)
DEPARTURES JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	07:00 Agaba (RJ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 12:30 Cairo (RJ) 13:00 Kuwait (LN) 13:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 14:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 14:50 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 15:55 Baghdad (RJ) 16:00 Larnaca (RJ) 16:20 Jeddah, Sana'a (RJ) 16:15 Cairo (RJ) 21:15 Damascus (RJ)
PRAYER TIMES	05:12 Fajr 05:34 Sunrise 06:34 Dhuhr 12:42 Asr 16:52 Maghreb 18:15 Isha
MONEY EXCHANGE	Saturday rates Local sell/buy rates in ffs Belgian franc .. 96.2 / 98.7 Dutch guilder .. 180.7 / 184.4 French franc .. 60.1 / 61.1 Italian lira .. 25.9 / 26.1 Japanese yen (for 100) .. 25.9 / 26.1 Swedish crown .. 55.7 / 56.6 U.S. sterling pound .. 605.2 / 616.7 U.S. dollar .. 331.1 / 338.3 W. German mark .. 212.7 / 206.9
WEATHER	It will be foggy in the morning, especially in the mountainous areas; and will be partly cloudy to cloudy, with chances for scattered rain. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered rains. Winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

NIGHT DUTY

Amman governorate ..	891228
Amman Civil Defence ..	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid ..	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Queshneh ..	70733
Civil Defence Deir Alla ..	57306
Ambulance ..	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade ..	198
First aid ..	63041
Blood Bank ..	78341
Civil Defence rescue ..	66111
Fire headquarters ..	62209-3
Police rescue ..	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters ..	639141
Traffic police ..	8963901
Electric Power Co. 63638/4, 624881	
Municipal water complaints 771258	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport (08)553060	

AMMAN:	
Dr. Adnan Zaghool ..	98140
Dr. Tawfiq ..	77634
Dr. Fayez Jalouja ..	62407
Dr. Hussein Haddad ..	73167
First pharmacy ..	66192
Ferdows pharmacy ..	77636
Al Asano pharmacy ..	63705
Nairokh pharmacy ..	62672
Al Salam pharmacy ..	63670
Yacoub pharmacy ..	64495

TAXIS:

Venicia taxi ..	66911
Alram taxi ..	64589
Palestine taxi ..	67453
Shamsi taxi ..	66594
Mehyar taxi ..	64574
Khayyan taxi ..	64157
Jordan taxi ..	62560
Asian taxi ..	84403

IRBID:

Dr. Mahmoud Ta'ani ..	24371
Shamsa' pharmacy ..	78525

ZARQA:

Dr. Raseh Atallah ..	96528
Khalifeh pharmacy ..	96547

GENERAL

Hussein Medical Centre ..	81381232
Khalifa Maternity, J. Amn ..	642816
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn ..	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity ..	64262
Maltes, J. Amman ..	636140
Palestine, Shamsi ..	6641713
Shamsi Hospital ..	669131
University Hospital ..	85854565
Al-Mustashfi Hospital ..	667279
The Islamic, Abdali ..	6612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..	6641666
Al-Jalal, Al-Mohajra ..	7771023
Al-Badr, J. Asirah ..	771126
Army, Marka ..	8916115
Queen Alia Hospital ..	6024050
Amal Hospital ..	674155

Jordan Television ..	7731119
Radio Jordan ..	7711119
Ministry of Tourism ..	64251
Hotel complaints ..	66612
Price complaints ..	66176
Telephone information ..	12
Jordan and Middle East calls ..	12
Overseas calls ..	12
Repair service ..	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.

Apple (different kinds) ..	300 / 250
Apple (French) ..	320 / 300
Apple (green) ..	470 / 460
Banana ..	320 / 300
Banana (Makassar) ..	300 / 240
Beans ..	220 / 180
Beans (broad) ..	300 / 400
Cabbage ..	70 / 40
Carrot ..	120 / 200
Cauliflower ..	100 / 70
Cucumbers ..	260 / 220
Dates (box) ..	1000 / 800
Eggplant (large) ..	100 / 70
Eggplant (small) ..	120 / 90
Garlic ..	300 / 200

Grapefruit ..	120 / 100
Lemon ..	130 / 100
Mandarin ..	180 / 140
Marjow ..	130 / 90
Onion (green) ..	110 / 80
Onion (dry) ..	200 / 170
Oranges (Abu surra) ..	280 / 200
Oranges (Shammoun) ..	230 / 180
Pepper (hot) ..	200 / 160
Pepper (sweet) ..	130 / 90
Potato ..	150 / 90
Radish ..	60 / 40
Squash ..	130 / 90
Tomatoes ..	180 / 140

Prime Minister meets with Greek Orthodox patriarchs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of Greek Orthodox patriarchs in the Middle East currently on a visit to Jordan met Saturday with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi.

The patriarchs, who arrived here from the occupied West Bank Friday, include Patriarch Parthenios of Alexandria, Patriarch Agnathos of Antakia and Patriarch Theodoros of Jerusalem.

After their meeting with the prime minister, the patriarchs called on Mr. Lawzi for a review of the Palestinian problem and the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Lawzi spoke about the brotherly ties between Muslims and Christians in the Kingdom, and said that they have common interests and share the same destiny.

The recent extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman had given its blessings to the process of Christian-Islamic dialogue and supported cooperation between the two faiths in the world-at-large. Mr. Lawzi said.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the Vatican was

a manifestation of this support and was aimed at deepening brotherly cooperation between Muslims and Christians in establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Holy City of Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied Arab territory.

Mr. Lawzi said that peace cannot be achieved except within a framework of justice and tolerance backed by the efforts of the international community.

Patriarch Parthenios said in reply that Christians and Muslims have been living together for 1,350 years, and this long period of coexistence has been characterised by understanding and cooperation.

Christians and Muslims in the occupied land and the Holy City of Jerusalem face the same problems and carry on the same struggle for liberating the holy places and for establishing peace and security, Patriarch Parthenios said.

The patriarch said that his church is determined to maintain its presence in the Holy Land and will continue its mission there.

The meeting was attended by a number of Parliament members and the Parliament's secretary general.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday chairs a meeting of the Higher National Committee of the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts (Petra photo)

Graduates of U.S. universities appeal to Reagan for principled stand on Palestinian problem

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A group of Jordanian graduates from American universities has called on U.S. President Ronald Reagan to adopt a stand based on the principles contained in the American constitution in dealing with the Palestinian problem and seek a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict.

In an open letter addressed to President Reagan and forwarded through the American ambassador to Jordan, the 18 signatories expressed "anguish and concern" over the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are shocked to see the U.S. react to the recent events and deaths by trying to maintain an 'even-handed' approach to the situation by blaming both Palestinians and Israelis for the violence and loss of life," the letter said.

Recalling that the U.S. addressed the fundamental inequity and worked to redress the situation while dealing with similar situations in the Philippines, Poland, Afghanistan and South Korea, the letter said: "We would have expected the United States to respond to the recent events in the West Bank and Gaza by asserting peace can only be achieved when the occupation of one people by another is ended, and when Palestinians and Israelis enjoy equal rights in the land of Palestine."

It noted that though the U.S. had criticised Israel's "harsh military measures and deportation policy," Washington "has yet to accept the Palestinians' right to live in liberty, security, sovereignty and dignity."

The signatories, who included Jordanians from all walks of life — business people, government officials, teachers, doctors, engineers and journalists — said that as long as Israel and the U.S. "refuse to accept that the Palestinian people should enjoy the right of national self-determination... we can only expect a continuation of the cycle of occupation, resistance, violence and death."

"We find it sad that the U.S. should retreat from its noble political and ethical heritage in this case, and acquiesce in an occupation which it indirectly finances and perpetuates by its \$3 billion in aid to Israel every year."

The letter decried the violent resistance "that stems naturally from the fact of prolonged occupation," and said: "We look to the United States, in such situations, to come down on the side of universal freedom and justice, to reaffirm the principles of the American constitution and the Bill of Rights, and to insist that the freedom is, indeed, indivisible."

Following is the full text of the letter, which was dated January 1, 1988 and made available to the Jordan Times on Saturday.

1 January, 1988

Mr. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States of America
C/O H.E. the Honourable Roscoe S. Suddarth
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
American Embassy
Amman - Jordan

Dear Mr. President:

Along with the rest of the world, we watched in anguish and concern last month as the Palestinian Arab inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip erupted in four weeks of violent demonstrations, with scores of deaths and over 1,500 arrests resulting from daily confrontations between the Israeli army and young Palestinians. Equally troubling to us, as Jordanians who studied at American universities and developed deep respect and admiration for American principles of democracy and human rights, was the relatively faint-hearted and distorted reaction of the American government to the events in the West Bank and Gaza.

We are shocked to see the United States react to the recent events and deaths by trying to maintain an "even-handed" approach to the situation, by blaming both Palestinians and Israelis for the violence and loss of life. Our years in the United States and our friendships with Americans throughout your country taught us with no ambiguity whatsoever that Americans usually react to situations of injustice, occupation or denial of human rights by boldly addressing the fundamental inequity, and working to redress it. This is what your country has done recently in the Philippines, Poland, Afghanistan, South Korea and many other cases around the world, where you rejected occupation or inequity, and actively demanded the application of justice and equal opportunity for all. You recognised violent street demonstrations as a symptom of an underlying denial of political rights, and you worked to end the violence by ending the underlying injustice which caused the violence to erupt.

Although we do appreciate the U.S. government's recent criticism of Israel's harsh military measures and deportation policy, the U.S. has yet to accept the Palestinians' right to live in liberty, security, sovereignty and dignity.

We would have expected the United States to respond to the recent events in the West Bank and Gaza by asserting that peace can only be achieved when the occupation of one people by another is ended, and when Palestinians and Israelis enjoy equal rights in the land of Palestine. As long as Israel and the United States refuse to accept that the Palestinian people should enjoy the right of national self-determination — a concept which the American President Woodrow Wilson articulated for the

whole world earlier this century — we can only expect a continuation of the cycle of occupation, resistance, violence and death. We find it sad that the United States should retreat from its noble political and ethical heritage in this case, and acquiesce in an occupation which it indirectly finances and perpetuates by its \$3 billion in aid to Israel every year.

We look to the United States, in such situations, to come down on the side of universal freedom and justice, to reaffirm the principles of the American constitution and the Bill of Rights, and to insist that freedom is, indeed, indivisible. We look to the United States to work actively for a negotiated settlement that recognises the equal rights of both protagonists, Palestinians and Israelis, rather than passively accepting and financing the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Arab land and people, while deprecating the violent resistance that stems naturally from the fact of prolonged occupation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Isam Hamed — University of Oklahoma — 1978
Awmi Saket — University of Cincinnati — 1962

Ali Abu Ragheb — University of Tennessee — 1967
Zaid A.F. Malhas — University of Oklahoma State — 1965

Omar J. Zakaria — University of Houston — 1974
Ahmed Lattouf — University of Tennessee — 1970

Rami G. Khouri — Syracuse University — 1970
Marwan J. Muasher — Purdue University — 1981

Suhail S. Halaby — University of California — 1966
Dr. Nayef R. Eldis — Baylor College of Medicine — 1980

Ibrahim H. Abu Ragheb — University of Tennessee — 1968
Jamal I. Abu Ragheb — University of Tennessee — 1980

Samir I. Nashashibi — Marquette University — 1982
Usama Nasserddin — University of California — 1978

Jamal Lattouf — Georgia Tech — 1980
Amal Ghandour — Stanford University — 1986

Manal Hamzeh — University of Gallaudet — 1983.

Queen Noor chairs meeting to evaluate 1987 Jerash Festival, discuss this year's event

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday chaired a meeting of the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival during which a comprehensive evaluation of the Sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts of July 1987 was conducted.

The committee examined the financial report and announced that the Sixth Jerash Festival had covered its costs with revenues from ticket sales and donations and grants from the government, the Jordanian Armed Forces, Royal Jordanian and the private sector.

The committee also studied and ratified the proposed budget for the Seventh Jerash Festival, and then discussed and approved the festival programme.

The Seventh Jerash Festival of

Culture and Arts will be held in July this year, and will feature Jordanian, Arab and international participants representing Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Kuwait, the Soviet Union, the United States, Bulgaria, Britain, France, Poland, Finland, East Germany, the Philippines, Romania, Greece and Yugoslavia.

Invitations will also be extended to prominent Arab poets to take part in the Festival Poetry Evenings.

Former festival director Mr. Michael Hamameh today handed over his post to Mr. Akram Masarweh, who has begun carrying out his duties as the new festival director.

In a concluding statement, the Queen emphasised the need to ensure the progress of work at the festival and to continue raising the level of the festival, which has attained high cultural repute and standing both nationally and internationally.

In the committee's October meeting, the Queen expressed her deep satisfaction with the success of the 1987 festival, and urged the committee members to speed up work on the early preparations for the 1988 festival.

Chaffee leaves Amman expressing hope for acceleration of peace efforts

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Senator John Chaffee left Amman Saturday saying he sensed "intense concern" in the region over Israeli-Palestinian clashes in the occupied territories and the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Speaking shortly after talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Senator Chaffee said he hoped for an acceleration in efforts towards reaching a negotiated solution to the Palestinian problem.

Underlining a sense of urgency, the U.S. senator said he hoped for a movement towards peace negotiations before this year's American and Israeli elections. "Despite tending to postpone movement (during election years), I hope there will be a continued thrust to find a solution," he said.

He described the anti-occupation uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories as a result of Israeli opposition to "Palestinians attempting to reach a permanent solution to the problem of occupation."

Mr. Chaffee said that U.S. measures against Israel to urge a halt to harsh, repressive measures against Palestinians "would not be successful." "The Israeli government, asserting its independence, would tend to reject harsh criticism or pressure," he said.

He said that action through "private channels" would be more useful. Senator Chaffee did not say whether the U.S. had privately taken action against Tel Aviv.

The Rhode Island Republican told the Jordan Times the Israeli coalition government was split over the path to peace negotiations. He said the split was "quite clear," and that "the two parties (Likud and Labour) don't agree" on a political solution.

Mr. Chaffee, who had held talks earlier with Israeli and

Egyptian leaders, said the U.S. administration did not reject outright the Arab call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East. "The U.S. prefers direct negotiations," the senator said in the telephone interview. "but it is willing to accept an international conference."

The American position, he added, "does not rule out an international conference, but it cannot dictate solutions or what formula must be followed."

His Majesty King Hussein received Mr. Chaffee Thursday and discussed with him the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, the Gulf war and bilateral relations.

Mr. Chaffee said the King underlined the importance of convening the proposed peace conference as the most effective way to reach a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The senator heard the same views Saturday from Mr. Rifai and Mr. Masri. Mr. Chaffee also met with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Referring to the American position vis-a-vis the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the Israeli authorities' harsh measures to control anti-occupation protests, the U.S. senator said his government deplored Israel's use of "lethal methods" and criticised the planned Israeli expulsion of Palestinian activists.

He pointed to the U.S. vote Tuesday in favour of a United Nations resolution urging Israel to refrain from deporting Palestinians from the West Bank and

Gaza. The U.S. earlier abstained from voting on a U.N. Security Council resolution deploring Israel's harsh measures against Palestinians.

"I deeply regret the shootings in the West Bank and Gaza," Mr. Chaffee said. "I hope there will be a move towards a solution."

He told the Jordan Times that he did not consider the U.S. vote at the U.N. Security Council as an indication that Washington was distancing itself from Israel's actions. "The U.S. administration has consistently deplored shootings (of Palestinians) and deportations," he said.

Reports reaching here from Washington quoted U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as restating Thursday what he called the "unshakable" U.S. commitment to Israel despite this week's U.S. vote against Israel at the Security Council.

Mr. Shultz told a press conference that the U.S. administration was upset about the latest round of violence in the occupied territories. But he then added: "I think it's important for everyone to understand that the U.S. regards its friendship and the strength of its relationship with Israel as a key and unshakable relationship. No one should misinterpret a vote as meaning anything else. In fact, I suppose the ability to differ occasionally with a friend shows the depth of that relationship."

Following talks in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Chaffee plans to visit U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf, in order "to see how they are functioning." The senator returns home in four days.

U.S. Congressional delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-member delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives arrived here Saturday for a visit to Jordan upon the invitation of the World Affairs Council (WAC). During their visit, Congressman Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania and Congressman Michael DeWine of Ohio will meet with a number of senior officials as well as WAC members.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday meets with Greek Orthodox patriarchs in the Middle East (Petra photo)

Director of expatriates affairs begins Gulf tour

AMMAN (J.T.) — The director of Jordanian expatriates affairs at the Foreign Ministry, Azmi al Muhtaseb, has flown to Kuwait to begin a tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Before his departure, Mr. Muhtaseb said that his tour was in response to a call by the expatriates to take part in a constituent assembly meeting of the proposed Jordanian investment holding company due to be held in succession in Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Riyadh and Jeddah.

The holding company was endorsed by the Third Jordanian Expatriates Conference held in Amman last summer.

Mr. Muhtaseb, who earlier announced the transfer to Jordan of contributions by expatriates living in the Gulf states, said that the meeting would pave the way for the holding company's official registration in Jordan by the mid-February.

The holding company was among resolutions adopted by the participants in the four-day expatriates conference that also endorsed Jordan's political stands vis-a-vis the Palestine problem and regional peace efforts, as well as a Jordanian-sponsored development plan for the occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Muhtaseb said that during his tour he will meet with representatives of expatriate groups to discuss the implementation of the expatriates conference's resolutions and plans for organising a fourth conference in Amman in the second half of 1988.

In addition to the holding company, which will invest in different projects in the Kingdom, the conference also recommended the establishment of expatriates' funds in Arab states of residence to promote social ties among members of Jordanian communities in host countries.

Hmoud in Cairo for talks on agricultural coordination

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud arrived in Cairo Saturday to take part in the meetings of the First Arab Conference on Agricultural Coordination which opens here today.

During the three-day conference, delegates from 13 Arab states will discuss agricultural coordination, exchange of agricultural products, Arab food security and the Arab agricultural

economy.

Mr. Hmoud said that he will also hold talks with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Agriculture Yousef Wali on boosting agricultural cooperation between the two countries. They will also discuss implementing the recommendations of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which held its last meeting in Cairo on Dec. 3.

Hamzeh and medical council head discuss recent resolutions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh met in his office Saturday with Dr. Awad Dajaja, secretary general of the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations.

During the meeting, Dr. Hamzeh and Dr. Dajaja made a general review of resolutions adopted by the council's general meeting held in Bahrain last month, which elected Dr. Hamzeh president. They also discussed the prospect of establishing the council's office in Amman.

Dr. Hamzeh has just returned to Amman from Thailand, where he took part in meetings organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to discuss different nations' programmes to ensure health for all people by the year 2000.

The meeting emphasised the need for national health ministries and organisations to increase their cooperation with WHO towards ensuring primary health care for all people.

NAF reviews 1987 activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) last year spent a total of JD 2,344,139 in assisting needy people, according to NAF Director Khalil Fa'ouri.

He said that the NAF also funded medical treatment for 964 people in private and public hos-

pitals, and that other allocations were made for social development research.

Mr. Fa'ouri was speaking at the Saturday general meeting of the NAF which reviewed the fund's operations in 1987.

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Amman stock exchange fared well in 1987

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

AS USUAL every year, Dr. Hashem Sabbagh, the director general of the Amman Financial Market (stock exchange) since its inception in 1978 held his annual press conference to give a run down of the market activities during the past year.

These annual press conferences have never been confined to the presentation of the facts and figures. They always went further to praise the achievements, in order to promote the investment climate and demonstrate improvement in every respect.

Some analysts believe that the director of any stock exchange should be absolutely neutral, and carry out his or her duties as organizer and controller to make sure that transactions are taking place smoothly and properly. He should not be involved in whether prices of shares rose or fell and whether the volume of transaction increased or decreased. The management of the stock exchange cannot claim credit if these two indicators rose and should not be blamed if they plummeted. The rise and fall in share prices reflect the effects of financial and economic circumstances in the country and abroad, and have nothing to do with the procedures in place for daily trading.

However, every manager has his own style. Apparently Dr. Hashem Sabbagh is determined to influence the trends in the financial market positively and not to just limit himself to drawing the picture as it was.

This enthusiasm in fact led Dr. Sabbagh sometimes to give incomplete or one-sided picture. He spoke of a record level in the volume of trading during the past year. This is a fact, although it is not easy to qualify as beneficial, harmful or neutral. The director general went on to assure us that the record trading registered in 1987 would continue during 1988. This of course is a value judgment, especially when the press conference was held last Sunday, only after one working day in 1988.

Dr. Sabbagh stated that Jordan has become an international investment centre. Reading on, we discover that this sweeping statement was based solely on the fact that one offshoot arm of the World Bank has decided to invest in Jordanian shares to the extent of \$5 million, a humble amount even by Jordanian standards. It is of course very important and useful to foster Jordan into an Arab and international investment centre, but it takes more preparations to qualify the country for this than the simple fact that an international organisation bought \$5 million worth of shares to up-grade the investment procedures in member countries that need help in this field.

Dr. Hashem Sabbagh claimed that the Jordanian stock exchange was not affected by the "Black Monday" of October 19, 1987 when share prices collapsed at leading stock markets around the world. This is of course a fact which has its own set of economic and

financial reasons. But, it could not be attributed to the sound procedures practised at the Amman Financial Market as Dr. Sabbagh would have liked us to believe. Unless he meant that the procedures applied by the stock markets in the advanced countries were not sound on October 19, 1987 and that the managements of these markets should study our procedures to learn how to avoid future price collapse.

The director of Amman stock exchange cited the efforts of the market management in making information and statistics available to the public through annual reports and a yearly directory of listed shareholding companies. This is of course a valuable service for which the management should be given due credit. We hope that such information will be made available at an earlier date while it still has value for the users. The latest companies' directory issued by the Amman Financial Market pertains to the year 1985. The directory for 1986 is not yet available although we are in 1988. Evidently information deteriorate with time to the point of losing all its value.

Finally we have to admit that the director of Amman stock exchange confined himself to the absolute facts. All that he stated was true. He told the truth, nothing but the truth, but not all the truth.

Sabbah: Servant of Peace

POPE John Paul II underlined the significance of an Arab serving as patriarch of Jerusalem when he expressed hope that Father Michel Sabbah, the Palestinian appointed to the post, would establish a fraternal dialogue with all groups in the Middle East and be a servant of peace in the region. The same sentiment is shared not only by the Arabs but also by all peace-loving people throughout the world.

The Holy See, which has made no secret of its support and advocacy of the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, could not have sent a clearer signal to Israel that there can be no end to the "problems" of the Jewish state if it pursues its expansionist drive and persists in rejecting a peace settlement based on justice and respect for Jerusalem as a sacred city, holy not only to Judaism but to Christianity and Islam, as well. Appointing a Palestinian as patriarch of Jerusalem for the first time in history was not only a resounding reminder to the Israelis of the Palestinian identity of Jerusalem and the occupied territories, but also an emphatic statement that only a person with first-hand experience with the oppressive Israeli policy can make bold moves in advancing the search for the long-elusive peace in the region.

Coming at the time of a Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, the announcement of Sabbah's appointment no doubt ruffled quite a few Israeli feathers; but it seems that the leaders of the Jewish state appear, for the moment, to have accepted the independence of the Holy See. Still, notwithstanding the conciliatory tone the Israelis used in response to the Vatican's move, it remains to be seen how they actually accept the respected Palestinian clergyman.

There is no doubt that Patriarch Sabbah's task is not easy; reminders of Israel's total defiance of Christian and Muslim rights to Jerusalem are too vivid to imagine a rosy picture. But, the close encounters Sabbah had with the ugly face of Israel's oppression of Palestinians and Arab institutions while he served as head of Bethlehem University should ensure that he is on his guard against Israeli actions.

As we salute the wisdom and justice behind the decision by Pope John Paul II to name Father Michel Sabbah as patriarch of Jerusalem, we also wish the new Roman Catholic leader of the Holy City every success in his endeavours to fulfil his mandate of establishing fraternal dialogue.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel rejects U.N. resolution

SOON after the U.N. Security Council issued its resolution calling on Israel not to deport the nine Palestinians, Israeli war minister Yitzhak Rabin announced that his government would not abide by that resolution. He also said that the U.S. which had voted for the resolution was in fact strictly adhering to its usual stand with regard to Israel with which it maintains a strong alliance. This alliance Rabin said, would not be affected by the U.S. voting at the Security Council. To support his words with deeds, Rabin sent out his troops to kill more Palestinians in Gaza, and his Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir refused to meet with a U.N. envoy to discuss the situation and the deportation of Arabs which contradicts with the Geneva Conventions and international principles and laws. Therefore, we invite the U.S. to prove its credibility and follow up its support for the resolution by taking steps to actually prevent Israel from deporting the Arab youths who Israel accuses of inciting trouble against occupation. The Arab countries too have a responsibility towards their kinsmen in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and ought to extend all possible assistance to them to support their steadfastness and their uprising against the Israeli authorities and their inhuman practices. The Arab League defence pact still stands and calls for collective action on the part of the Arab states to defend all Arabs anywhere in the face of external attack.

Al Dustour: Israel cornered

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has announced his refusal to meet with a U.N. envoy visiting the region to discuss Israel's practices and its planned deportation of Arab people from their homeland. Shamir's behaviour is no doubt driving Israel into more and more isolation from the rest of the international community, and is making it difficult for Israel and the rest of the world to find a solution for the problem. Shamir's statement reflects also the sensitivity of the situation in the occupied Arab territory and the embarrassment in which the Israeli government is falling due to its continued repressive measures. This statement came as the Arab people are maintaining their revolt against the Israeli authorities and stepping up their resistance activity. Shamir cannot face the U.N. envoy because he had lost all self-confidence as a result of the killing of innocent civilians and in the wake of a U.N. Security Council resolution deploring Israel's actions and urging it to refrain from deporting the Arab people from their homeland. The situation is becoming more and more difficult for Shamir and his government also in view of statements by foreign countries coming from British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and other world government leaders who condemned Israel's practices against the Arabs.

Sawt Al Shaab: The uprising continues

THE uprising in the occupied Arab territory has now entered a second month, and the Arab people are showing no sign of capitulating to Israel's will. The Arab revolt in the face of Israel's repressive actions has proved to the world at large that the Palestinian Arabs are determined more than ever to regain their rights and to determine their own future on their own soil. The continued revolt which is taking new dimensions is continuing despite the formidable weapons and the arms massed by the Israeli authorities to quell the resistance. The revolt is a natural reaction to the continued Israeli acts of repression, and followed a long period of Palestinian people's suffering at the hands of Israeli troops.

GCC tones down Iran criticism, seeks Gulf war solution

By Aly Mahmoud
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Gulf Arab leaders, alarmed at the widening impact of the Iran-Iraq war, have toned down criticism of Iran and advocated measures to end the conflict, including an international peace-keeping fleet with Soviet ships.

There are signs that their self-restraint may be producing some results.

Arab diplomatic sources reported Thursday that Syria, Iran's closest Arab friend, has persuaded Tehran to delay a new ground offensive and open a dialogue with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, an alliance of Arab countries sympathetic to Iraq.

The reported breakthrough apparently came after GCC leaders ended a summit in Riyadh on Dec. 29 with a surprisingly moderate statement on Iran while the Syrians stepped up their mediation initiative.

In contrast, the Arab summit in Amman six weeks earlier harshly criticized Iranian "aggression" in the 7-year-old war.

Saudi Arabia and Iran have been at loggerheads over the Gulf war and riots in the Muslim holy city of Mecca last July 31, in which 425 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, were killed. Iran has called for the overthrow of the Saudi royal family.

The Kuwaitis, too, are increasingly at odds with Tehran over a string of Iranian missile attacks and terrorist strikes by pro-Iranian Shiite Muslims. Iran accuses Kuwait of aiding Iraq. Diplomats expected the Riyadh meeting to produce a sharp denunciation of Iran and demands for sanctions. Saudi Arabia had previously urged Arab countries to sever relations with Iran.

But instead, the final communiqué, while critical of Iran, advocated a dialogue and contained none of the condemnations of Tehran that have laced recent Arab statements.

The Riyadh communiqué also called on the U.N. Security Council to "shoulder its responsibilities" and implement its July 20 resolution, which calls for an arms embargo to enforce a Gulf war cease-fire.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, stressed that the Gulf states expect the Soviet Union to support that move.

"The Soviet Union is a permanent member of the Security Council and has specific responsibility for world peace and stability," he noted.

The six Gulf Arab leaders decided to dispatch envoys to the five permanent Security Council members — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — to press for enforcement of the July 20 resolution.

GCC officials said that Iran, which has been massing its forces for new ground thrusts against Iraq, has in recent days shown signs of responding to the latest Arab effort to open a dialogue aimed at ending the war.

However, Western military analysts believe that Iranian leaders, having failed to convince the United Nations to brand Iraq the aggressor, are determined to step up military pressure on Baghdad if the talks fail to produce significant concessions.

All previous mediation efforts have foundered because Tehran has insisted on the ouster of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said at the Riyadh meeting that Gulf Arabs might have to invite foreign powers to help with their defence, a hint that they could turn to Egypt, the Arab World's strongest power, or others for military support.

Informed Arab sources said King Fahd's remark was aimed mainly at bolstering Kuwait, which brought American warships into the Gulf in July to protect its U.S.-flagged tankers.

Knowledgeable sources said Sultan Qaboos of Oman and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, talked King Fahd into toning down his statement. Both have long advocated dialogue with Tehran.

The sources said that to avoid conflict, the official Saudi press agency, which distributed the king's address, deleted the reference to the option of enlisting foreign help for defence.

Jordanian columnist Rakan Majali noted: "That was the first Gulf summit to evolve a practical and realistic action strategy, attuned to the spirit of the Amman summit."

"What we have is applicable talk. The Gulf powers appear to be serious about defining their combined objectives and carving their path."

The Riyadh meeting endorsed the idea of an international naval force in the Gulf to protect shipping that carries one-fifth of the non-Communist world's oil.

In Arab political parlance, "international" means permitting the Soviets to play a role with the United States in the region.

The Arabs have also called for Soviet participation in an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Such a conference would end the Americans' role as the exclusive Mideast peace broker.

LETTERS

Open message

The following is an open letter addressed to the delegation of U.S. Congressmen currently visiting Jordan:

LOSING a war and living under occupation on one's own soil has never been an American experience and I hope it never will be. For me, an American woman married to an Arab, it is an event I have been living through for 20 years and I take this opportunity to tell you about it, from my point of view.

Immediately after the June 1967 war Israel began to register all Arabs and issue them identity cards. This was done swiftly and efficiently. I am so grateful we were there together as a family and I had not fled to Amman with my 3 small children. If I had not been there I would have had to go through the tedious process of the Israeli "re-unification plan," a long, complicated, expensive procedure which is not always successful. Imagine the number of people out of the country in June of 1967: youngsters still away at school in Beirut or Cairo, men working in the Gulf or one hour away in the capital Amman. These people could not simply come home. To this day uncountable numbers of Palestinians are still seeking to be re-united with their families.

Before that month of June had ended, Israeli civilians began to flood into "their newly acquired" territories. A strange situation, civilians settling and colonizing land, owned and inhabited by others, a land over which they had no legal claim and could only control by force of arms. Since then the Israelis have established over 100 settlements (an unfortunate word because it reminds Americans of a pioneering type of venture and nothing could be further from the truth) on the West Bank and Gaza.

I divide their settlements into two types: Agricultural and urban. The agricultural ones are often located on land near or directly outside an Arab village. They can include orchards, the water source of a village and cultivated land. Sometimes the settlement leaves the village itself intact but confiscates the villagers' entire means of livelihood. The urban settlements form a ring of containment because they are found on the perimeter of any large Arab town or Arab section of a city. They form an effective net around the town cutting off all possibilities of natural growth and expansion. The Arab population is confined to the geographical area of 20 years ago. Schools, hospitals and municipal services can't cope in this ghetto-like existence.

We bought a small piece of land outside Jerusalem, for our dream of a home in the suburbs. It was confiscated by the Jerusalem municipality in 1968. Notification in Hebrew was posted on the side of a public building offering compensation based on land values from the time of the British mandate, which began at the end of the first world war. We, like other self-respecting Arabs, couldn't accept compensation because it would recognise Israeli sovereignty over us. You ask why my family and I don't leave? If, on one hand, we sold our home and business to Israelis we would become traitors, and on the other hand, how can we just walk out — denying our children their heritage and giving up our rights?

All cars have to be registered in Israel. Arab residents in Jerusalem have license plates identical to Israeli plates except for the first three digits. The plates on all Arab cars begin with 630 — or a similar, easily recognisable series. For the rest of the Arab residents of the West Bank and Gaza, nothing so subtle is used. Their plates are a separate and different colour from all license plates in the country. Wherever an Arab drives, he is easily picked out by police, army or armed Israeli civilian settlers, any one of whom can and do set up road blocks. This was the first time I became aware that I was a victim of racial discrimination. This gave me a keener understanding of my fellow Americans who are black, and I can more easily picture the situation in South Africa.

Other forms of discrimination practised are: — Produce and products from the West Bank cannot be sold in Jerusalem or Israel proper (the pre 1967 borders of Israel) because this would upset the Israeli economy, or so they claim. What isn't eaten or exported to Jordan, rots.

— Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza are not allowed to sleep overnight in Israel proper without special military permission.

— Licenses for existing Arab businesses can suddenly be subjected to new regulations, making renewal nearly impossible. Arabs are consistently denied building permits and licenses for new businesses. Should an Arab build without a permit, the entire structure would be torn down.

— Arab students avoid studying a wide range of subjects particularly the sciences, knowing they will never be allowed to work in their field because they are, by birth, classified a security risk.

— Arabs are taxed but not represented in government.

— Arabs cannot become citizens of Israel because they are not Jews. My sons are automatically considered a security risk and are in jeopardy just being there.

Of course during these 20 years, Arabs have protested this occupation, through the limited avenues open to them, since they are legally non-existent as a people. The official retaliation for opposing the occupation is known. Their leaders are jailed, deported, maimed or killed. Anyone found on the street near the site of a protest, where I.D. papers show he is an Arab, is picked up and held. How long and in what condition varies greatly. If the protest is in the form of a strike, the Israeli forces open shops at random leaving them unprotected from looters, or they mark the shutters with a large X to return another day to arrest, fine or otherwise punish the owner.

Among the several forms of collective punishment that Israel uses, are two which are particularly inhuman. One I have experienced is the curfew. Anyone responsible for enforcing this, is committing an act of terror. The victims are in real physical danger and suffer mental anguish surpassed only by war. The physical danger comes from the inability to get help for any type of human need, from hunger to hemorrhage, and the possibility of being shot if one should try. The mental anguish is knowing this fact for hours and days on end. Can you imagine your family in what home town under a curfew with the phones, water and electricity being cut off? At any given time during the past 20 years, some unlucky Arab village, refugee camp, or section of a city has been put under curfew. The Israelis still apply the curfew as a mass punishment today.

The other hideous form of collective punishment is the demolition of Arab homes. I don't know how many hundreds and hundreds of Arab homes have been destroyed. An Arab suspect, not even one who has been tried and convicted of a crime against the occupation, stands the chance of having his family home bulldozed or blown up. An entire family is made homeless. No recourse of action is open to them. How can any civilized person justify these gross violations of human rights by allowing them to be classified under the heading of "security needs"?

You know better than I the exact amount of money the U.S. gives to Israel each year. No matter what the money is "ear marked" for, it supports the regime. Thus America is a silent partner in the occupation. I don't if you like this analogy, yet it is plausible. The American government publicly defends human rights and may punish countries guilty of committing violations. Is America consistently sincere and only ignorant of Israeli practices? After 20 years this is hard to believe. Is the U.S. content to excuse errant behaviour from countries who enjoy a "most favoured nation status"? I should think the most staunch supporter of Israel would have passed his limits of credibility by now.

The Palestinian youths who dare to challenge the Israeli military are courageous. Their bravery has come from desperation and hopelessness. When they try their right to self determination, they will have won by their own efforts. We, as Americans, will have lost. Our integrity and credibility is questionable unless we make good our commitment as a protector of human rights.

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(Continued from Page 1)
Communications and the Ministry of Culture became Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

Mr. Thoukan Al Hindawi retained his position as minister of education but assumed the additional post of deputy prime minister replacing Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Majali. Dr. Faysal Al Tarawneh, who at 38 is the youngest minister in the present Council of Ministers, took over as minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs — a portfolio held by Mr. Majali.

Rashid Ureikat, who held several posts in previous cabinets and who is a member of the Upper House of Parliament, replaced Mr. Khaled Al Haj Hassan as minister of labour and social development. Mr. Haj Hassan was appointed as minister of transport and communications replacing Muhieddine Al Hussein and taking over the transport portfolio from Mr. Ahmad Dakhan who became the first-ever minister of water and irrigation. The newly-created ministry will take over duties performed by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

Hani Khasawneh, an ex-ambassador to Paris and Moscow and who served in the 1984-85 Cabinet of Ahmad Obeidar, took office as minister of information replacing Mohammad Al Khatib. The outgoing information minister, who recently underwent an open-heart surgery, was also in charge of the portfolios of culture and tourism. Mr. Zuhair Ajlouni took over the Ministry of Tourism while Mohammad Al Hammouri assumed office as minister of culture and national heritage.

Shafiq Al Zawaideh, who, until his new appointment on Saturday, was director general of the Housing Corporation, was named minister of housing and public works replacing Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh.

Awad Khleifat replaced Eid Dahiyat as minister of youth and Mr. Hamdi Tabbaa was named minister of industry, trade and supply.

Mr. Khleifat and Mr. Tabbaa are being appointed ministers for the first time.

Following the reshuffle, the present Cabinet line-up is as under:

Prime Minister and defence minister — Zaid Rifai;
Minister of state for parliamentary affairs — Sami Joudeh;
Minister of agriculture — Marwan Hmoud;

Minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs — Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat;

Minister of education — Thoukan Al Hindawi;
Minister of higher education — Nasseeddine Al Assad;

Minister of energy and mineral resources — Hisham Al Khatib;
Minister of finance — Hanna Odeh;

Minister of foreign affairs — Taher Al Masri;
Minister of health — Zaid Hamzeh;

Minister of interior — Rajai Dajani;
Minister of justice — Riyad Al Shakaa;

Minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment — Yousef Hamdan;

Minister of occupied territories affairs — Marwan Dudin;
Minister of planning — Taher Kanaana;

Minister of information — Hani Khasawneh;
Minister of labour and social development — Rashid Ureikat;

Minister of tourism — Zuhair Ajlouni;
Minister of culture and heritage — Mohammad Hammouri;

Minister of youth — Awad Khleifat;
Minister of water and irrigation — Ahmad Dakhan;

Minister of public works and housing — Shafiq Zawaideh;
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Following are profiles of the new ministers who joined the Cabinet on Saturday.

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dary education in Amman and then studied law and later obtained a doctoral degree in political science from Romania.

Dr. Khasawneh, who was recently elected as secretary general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity, has served as minister of youth and as Jordan's ambassador to France and the Soviet Union.



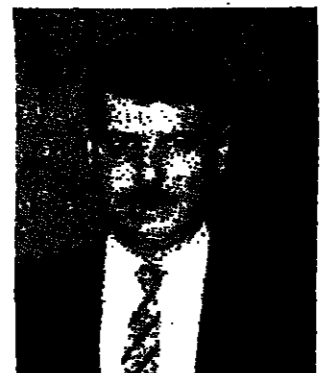
Rashid Ureikat

Rashid Ureikat was born in Abu Dees near Jerusalem in 1930 and completed his secondary education in Jordan. Mr. Ureikat, a retired civil servant, and a member of the Upper House of Parliament, has served in the Armed Forces rising to the rank of assistant chief of staff and later as minister of public works, communication and transport.



Awad Khleifat

Awad Khleifat was born in Wadi Mousa in 1945. He holds a doctoral degree in history from the University of London. He has served as vice president of Yarmouk University, head of the history department at the University of Jordan and as dean of the Faculty of Literature at the University of Jordan.



Faysal Al Tarawneh

Faysal Al Tarawneh was born in Amman in 1949, and completed his secondary school in 1967 and then obtained a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Jordan and later a doctorate from the U.S.

Dr. Tarawneh had served as assistant chief of royal protocol and later as advisor on economic affairs at the prime minister's office.



Mohammad Hammouri

Mohammad Hammouri was born in Beit Ras near Irbid in 1942 and finished his secondary education in Irbid. He obtained a doctorate from Cambridge and served as head of the department of law and then dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan from 1980 until his new appointment.



Hamdi Tabbaa

Hamdi Tabbaa was born in Amman in 1936, and completed his secondary education in Sidon in Lebanon after attending the American University of Beirut (AUB). He is president of the federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and member of the Amman Chamber of Commerce.



Shafiq Zawaideh
Shafiq Zawaideh was born in Madaba in 1935, and completed his secondary education in Am-

man. In 1960, he obtained a degree in civil engineering from Cairo. Between 1960 and 1969 he worked with Amman Municipality. In 1969, he obtained a master's degree in water and sanitary engineering from Akron University in Ohio in the U.S.

He operated a private business in Amman. In 1978, Mr. Zawaideh was appointed member of the now dissolved National Consultative Council (NCC). From 1984 and prior to his ministerial post, Mr. Zawaideh held the post of director general of the Housing Corporation.



Zuhair Ajlouni

Israelis shoot dead another Palestinian

(Continued from Page 1)

since widespread protests broke out in the occupied territories on Dec. 8.

"Every car that passes will be burned and destroyed and every store that opens will be burned and destroyed," said an Islamic Jihad pamphlet distributed in mosques and street corners Friday.

"Don't go out of your houses on Saturday... to prove to your sons in prison... that you are with them," it added.

In Gaza City, Arab residents said the taxis that carry workers to jobs in Israel were not running and protesters threw stones at a half-dozen private cars seen in the streets at mid-morning.

An Arab reporter who demanded anonymity said stones were thrown at Israeli troops in the Shati refugee camp, and soldiers broke up a demonstration using tear-gas in the Jabalya camp.

The new wave of protests in Gaza came despite a large army

presence that has been in the area since mid-December and was an indication that the uprising was not subsiding despite a crackdown by Israeli authorities on alleged instigators.

The Palestine Press Service reported the general strike was being observed in Ramallah, Bethlehem and Arab Jerusalem. Clashes with soldiers were reported in Ramallah and stone-throwing incidents in the Balata and Askar refugee camps near Nablus.

In the Sajaiya quarter of Gaza City, two women were struck by rubber bullets, one in the head and one in the shoulder, after one woman burned an Israeli flag and stomped on it with her feet, the Arab reporter said. The women, one 40 and the other about 50, were treated at Shifa hospital.

From the loudspeaker of a nearby mosque, residents were called on to fight Israeli troops with "knives, stones and all other means."

"For our people, the sons of

knives and stones, victory is near," said the announcement, which castigated the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, referring to him as "you criminal, you killer."

In Baghdad, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat rejected Saturday a proposal by Shamir for talks on "autonomy" for the occupied territories.

"After the Israeli failure to liquidate the Palestinian popular uprising, Shamir tried his luck through this cheap bribe," Mr. Arafat told reporters at his Baghdad headquarters.

"Our people, who gave all those great sacrifices for its just and sacred cause, cannot be bribed."

A spokesman for Shamir said the Israeli leader proposed during a meeting with visiting U.S. senators on Friday that "autonomy" talks should be held once order had been restored to the occupied territories.

Israeli and Palestinian sources

in the West Bank and Gaza put the death toll in one month of protests at 28, but Mr. Arafat said on Saturday the real figure was 62.

The PLO also demanded on Saturday immediate international action to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories from Israeli troops.

Members of the Central Council, at the end of a three-day meeting to discuss the turmoil, also agreed to open a fund to support anti-Israeli demonstrators and urged all Arab states to contribute.

A statement said the protests would "continue on the land of Palestine till the achievement of freedom and the liquidation of the hateful Zionist occupation, just peace, the return of our people to their homeland and the establishment of their independent state on the Palestinian national soil and its capital, Jerusalem."



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Saturday's disaster is the 19th death in event's 10-year history

DAF pulls out after death in Paris-Dakar race crash

ARLIT, Niger (R) — The controversial Paris-Dakar claimed a life on Saturday when a Dutch truck rolled at high speed off a desert track, killing the co-driver and badly injuring his two teammates.

Kees van Loewezijn, 31, died in his 600-horsepower DAF Turbo twin truck on the 668-km desert stage between the Niger towns of Djado and Arit.

Dutchman Theo van de Rijt and Briton Chris Ross were seriously injured and had to be cut from the wreck.

It was the 19th death in the 10-year history of the event and a further blow to organisers facing heavy criticism for choosing a course mostly over uncharted territory that some have charged

is too difficult.

In a separate accident a few hours later, Italian motorcyclist Alessandro di Petri crashed, sustaining head and chest injuries.

The Paris-Dakar race, which becomes part of the official International Rally Circuit next year, was already in deep trouble. Two-thirds of the 603 competitors had dropped out after four days crossing the Sahara in searing heat.

Jean-Marie Balestre, chairman of the Paris-based International

Federation of Motor Sports (FISA), has called for an emergency meeting with the organisers as soon as the rally ends on January 22.

Doctors said Ross had multiple injuries. Van de Rijt had fractured limbs as well as face and head injuries.

DAF later announced it was pulling out of the race. Its lead truck, a 1,200-horsepower model driven by multiple Paris-Dakar winner Jan de Rooy, was running in sixth place overall.

A spokesman for rally organisers TSO (the Thierry Sabine Organisation) said disaster struck Van Loewezijn's truck, lying in 21st place, on a high-speed stretch just 25 km into the stage.

The course, devised by organiser Rene Metge, has come in for heavy criticism especially from motorcyclists who say they have to take risks to ensure they finish marathon stages of up to 1,000 km before night falls in the desert.

Before the death of Van Loewezijn, Belgian motorcycle rider Andrei Malherbe was the race's most serious casualty with a broken neck.

Paris hospital authorities said on Friday his condition was critical and would determine in the next few days if the triple world motorcross champion would be paralysed.



DAF truck (right) is the one which crashed causing the death of its co-driver

Coventry revives, Liverpool held

LONDON (R) — Holders Coventry recovered some of the form which carried them to glory last season when they beat Fourth-Division Torquay 2-0 in their first defence of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup.

On a day of few surprises and no major shocks, all the giants of the English First Division avoided an undignified early exit at the hands of less-exalted opposition — but runaway leaders Liverpool had to be content with a 0-0 draw at Second-Division Stoke.

Queen's Park Rangers survived an awkward assignment on the famous sloping pitch of minor league Yeovil and came away with a 3-0 victory. Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest won 4-0 at Halifax, Tottenham triumphed 4-2 at Oldham and Southampton won 1-0 at Reading.

Arsenal's London Derby clash with Second-Division Millwall was marred by fighting before and during the match which kicked off 10 minutes late. Arsenal emerged as 2-0 winners.

Martin Hayes opened the scor-

ing for Arsenal with his first goal of the season after 11 minutes. Midfielder David Rocastle added the second 11 minutes later and Arsenal were then able to cruise to a comfortable victory.

Coventry scored twice in two minutes early in the second half to end Torquay's hope. Captain Brian Kilcline converted a 59th minute penalty and former England striker Cyrille Regis hit the second.

Queen's Park Rangers' hero was striker Mark Falco who scored twice at Yeovil.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kuwait retains lead in Olympic group

RIYADH (R) — Kuwait drew 0-0 with Saudi Arabia to retain its lead in the Western Asia soccer qualifying group for 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. In the same group, Iraq beat Qatar 4-1 in a game played in Muscat, Oman. World soccer authorities have banned international matches in Iraq because of the Iran-Iraq war. After five games, Kuwait leads the group with seven points, followed by Iraq with six, Saudi Arabia with four and Qatar with three.

Cash topples Edberg in challenge final

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Wimbledon champion Pat Cash toppled world number two and reigning Australian Open title holder Stefan Edberg of Sweden 7-6, 7-6 in the final of the Adelaide challenge exhibition tennis tournament on Saturday. Edberg appeared in the final of the round robin event amid confusion after fellow-Swede Anders Jarryd appeared to have qualified to meet Cash following Frenchman Henri Leconte's defeat of Edberg on Friday night. But the organisers reassessed the tournament rules on Saturday morning and said an "administration oversight" had been made.

Fitzgerald eyes place in world top 30

SYDNEY (R) — Australian John Fitzgerald continued his fine form of late when he beat American Joey Rive 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the semifinals of the New South Wales Open tennis championship on Saturday. Fifth-seeded Fitzgerald, who underwent a shoulder last year, forced his way into the world's top 30 in 1985 when he was ranked 28th for a spell, and his recent displays suggest his recovery from injury is almost complete. The Australian's opponent in Sunday's final will be third-seeded Russian Andrei Chesnokov, who beat number one seed Christo van Rensburg of South Africa. The Soviet Davis Cup player is better known as a claycourt specialist but proved he can adapt to fast grass with a smooth 6-3, 7-6 victory.

Nati ready to face 'king of knockout'

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Italian boxer Valerio Nati, who flew to Miami Saturday to fight a World Boxing Association (WBA) featherweight bout against world champion Antonio Esparragoza of Venezuela, has said he is not afraid of the so-called "knockout king." "I am aware that Esparragoza is a hard-hitting boxer with an impressive record," Nati told a news conference. "However my punches are heavy. I plan to be aggressive, which may prevent him from moving with ease in the ring and using his combinations." The 32-year-old Italian, European champion in the category, fights the world champion in Miami on Jan. 18. Nati said he was in perfect shape and already within the category limit following three months of tough training.

Thomas wins women's skating event

DENVER (AP) — Debi Thomas edged Caryn Kadavy to win Friday's short programme portion of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Thomas, 20, skated first in the final group. Her routine, with a double toe loop-triple toe combination, earned her a steady mark of 5.8 for presentation from the nine judges. Her marks for technical merit included two 5.7s, six 5.8s and a 5.9 out of 6.0. In men's singles, Brian Boitano went after his fourth successive U.S. crown in Friday's freestyle.

Treacy to star in richest road race

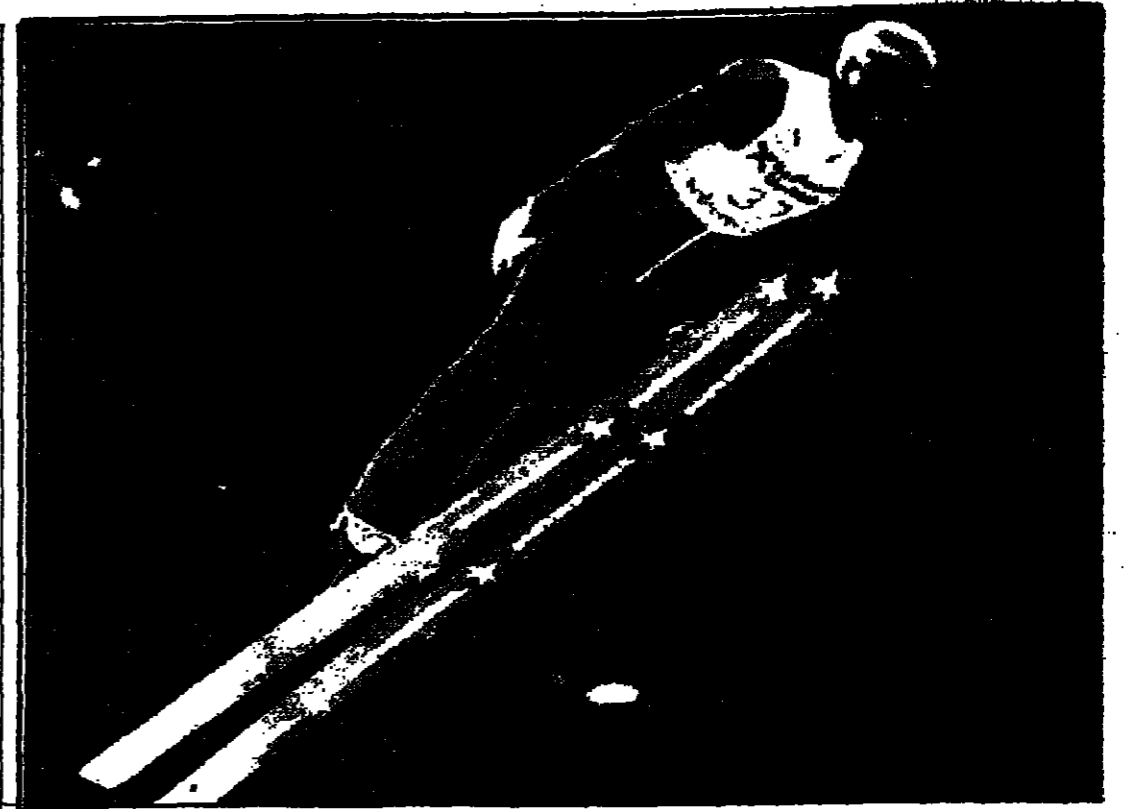
GOLD COAST, Australia (R) — John Treacy of Ireland and Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen are favourites to win the men's and women's competitions in what organisers describe as the world's richest road race on Sunday. The 15-km race, to celebrate the opening of a tourist complex here, has 200,000 dollars (\$140,000) prize money on offer. Kristiansen, 31, holds the world best time for a 15-km point-to-point race and should have too much experience for the likes of Britain's Priscilla Welch and Australia's Marathon specialist Lisa Martin. Briton Zola Budd and Portugal's Rosa Mota have pulled out of the event, organisers said on Saturday.

Arrest warrant issued for Ciccarelli

TORONTO (AP) — Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of Minnesota North Stars right wing Dino Ciccarelli on a charge of assault in connection with a stick-swinging incident during a National Hockey League (NHL) game, officials have said. Earlier Friday, the NHL announced that Ciccarelli would be suspended for 10 games — the second-longest suspension of the season — because of the incident, which resulted in a match penalty. "We have officers at Maple Leaf Gardens and if we feel that the assault is a little more than what falls under the guidelines of a bit of a scuffle in a hockey game, we do conduct an investigation and we do speak to the crown attorney," said Toronto Police Supt. Walter Tyrrell.

Mexico Grand Prix to go ahead after all

MEXICO CITY (R) — Organisers of the Mexican Formula One Grand Prix have reversed their decision to cancel the 1988 race, which is to go ahead as scheduled on June 5. Principal organiser Jose Abed said at a press conference on Friday that race backers had reconsidered last month's decision to cancel the race after gaining further economic support from the government of Mexico City and international Grand Prix organisers. "The auto race will be held June 5 in the Rodriguez Brothers Autodrome thanks to the total support of capital authorities," Abed said.



West German ski jumper Thomas Klauser flying in the air during a 1987 German-Austrian tournament (Photo by INP/Bongarts)

Thomas Klauser: a daring jumper

OBERSTDORF (INP) — Many people get dizzy when they simply look up at a ski jump; not even in their wildest dreams could they ever consider trying out the jump for themselves. It would be true to say that ski-jumpers and skifliers, who reveal nerves of steel, when they daringly launch themselves into the air, are very special people indeed. They catapult themselves some 80, 100 or even 180 metres through the air from the pad of the ski jump — bent well forward, with stretched

body, the two long skis kept parallel and close together down the steep slope. Traditionally the climax of the season for these "bird men" is the German-Austrian Four-jump Tournament, which begins on the last day of the year in Oberstdorf and continues over the first days of the New Year in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bischofshofen and Innsbruck. The overall winner of the 1987/1988 tournament will start as favourite for the Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada.

During the first competitions of the season, however, the Finnish world and Olympic champion Matti Nykanen underlined his hopes of repeating his Lake Placid success. There is no doubt about it: Nykanen's rivals, including Thomas Klauser, the local favourite from Oberstdorf, Andreas Bauer and Dieter Thoma from the Black Forest, who is still only 18 — from W. Germany, will need to have particularly good "flying conditions" if they want to oust the Finn.

Zurbriggen 'slide' to victory in Val d'Isere event

Haas declared Super G winner after four Austrians disqualified

LECH AM ARLBERG, Austria (AP) — Zoe Haas of Switzerland on Saturday was declared winner in the season's third Women's World Cup Super-Giant Slalom after winner, Sigrid Wolf and three other Austrians were disqualified for violating regulations.

Haas's time was 1:15.55 minutes, 20 hundredths of a second ahead of new runner-up Catherine Quittet of France. Third was Michela Figini of Switzerland, who defended her World Cup lead, now totalling 121 points, 20 points more than Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa of Spain.

The Austrian girls attached their starting numbers of their race suits in such a way as to gain an aerodynamic advantage over other competitors, officials said. West German coach Klaus Mayr said he saw the four Austrian girls use safety pins to fasten their numbers to their suits, which is forbidden under race rules.

Mayr said he told the Austrian skiers about it but his warning was rejected and he lodged a protest.

The race jury subsequently voted 3-2 to disqualify Wolf and fellow Austrians Anita Wachter, Sylvia Eder and Elisabeth Kirschner, who placed fifth, tenth and twelfth respectively.

A subsequent Austrian counter-protest was rejected. The Austrian Ski Federation announced it would appeal the decision with the International Ski Federation (FIS).

Austrian officials were furious about the decision to disqualify the top four Austrian girls, including women's team coordina-

tor Andy Rauch, who said he considered valid the performance of the four.

A decision by the FIS directorate was expected to take several weeks. Wolf, deprived of her victory, later said, "some of us have used safety pins, but I certainly have not."

Fourth-placed was Michaela Gerg of West Germany in 1:16.16 and fifth-place finisher, Fernandez-Ochoa, had a time of 1:16.18.

In Val d'Isere, France, Pirmin Zurbriggen, after seconds in the first two downhill, won his first World Cup race of the season Saturday with a convincing victory at this famed French resort.

Zurbriggen, the Swiss skier who took two gold and two silver medals at last year's world championships and was the overall World Cup winner, posted the fastest time ever on the Oreiller-Killy Course — 1 minute, 57.10 seconds.

The cold, brisk day, and icy-fast course contributed to the fast clocking. The previous best time was 1:59.20 by Conrad Cathomen of Switzerland in 1982.

Austria's 29-year-old veteran, Anton Steiner, took advantage of a late-breaking snow to come in second with 1:57.64, edging Marc Girardelli, the Austrian who skis for Luxembourg, third with 1:57.67.

France scored in fourth and sixth respectively with Franck Piccard, 1:57.87, and Christophe Plet, 1:57.91. Italy's Michael Mair was fifth in 1:57.87.

The race was delayed about 30 minutes after an accident involving a snow tractor killed one person and injured three others

near the course. Zurbriggen, the favourite for multiple gold medals in the winter Olympics next month, gained his 30th victory overall in World Cup skiing and his eighth downhill.

"I didn't have any pressure since I came in second each time in the two preceding downhills," Zurbriggen said. "I knew Girardelli was fast on the top part but I thought the times would be a tighter," Zurbriggen said.

Saturday's race was shifted from Garmisch-Partenkirchen, West Germany, because of lack of snow.

Italy's Alberto Tomba, who leads the World Cup standings with 125 points, is scheduled to race in Sunday's Super-G, another transfer from Garmisch-Partenkirchen. He didn't race the downhill.

Zurbriggen moved to within nine points with his victory and has 116. Austria's Guenther Mader is a distant third with 45 points.

Girardelli started in the seventh position but had a little difficulty on the second half of the race.

"I made some mistakes, Girardelli said. "At the compression and near the finish area my hand hit the snow." Girardelli was the World Cup overall champion in 1985 and 1986, separating Zurbriggen's victories in 1984 and 1987.

Zurbriggen's run was technically perfect. He stayed low and had no trouble. "Pirmin didn't make any mistakes," said Girardelli, who congratulated the Swiss as soon as he finished.

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NBA roundup

Hawks hover over Cavaliers; Pistons lose

NEW YORK (AP) — Thanks to Byron Scott, the Los Angeles Lakers are lording it over the rest of the NBA.

Scott, averaging 29 points in his last six games, scored 35 Friday night as the Lakers won for the 13th consecutive time, 106-104 over the Detroit Pistons. A crowd of 40,278 at the Pontiac Silverdome, the largest in the league this season, saw the Pistons lose for the fourth time in six games after a 10-game winning streak.

Elsewhere, it was Boston 125, Washington 109; New Jersey 118, New York 111; Philadelphia 117, Los Angeles Clippers 103; Atlanta 101, Cleveland 97; Utah 111, Milwaukee 107; and Portland 98,

Sacramento 91. The Lakers trailed 56-45 at halftime, then outgunned Detroit 41-24 in the third quarter as Scott scored 16 points and Johnson 12 in the period. Washington outscored Boston 43-28 in the second quarter, but the Celtics rallied as Larry Bird scored 35 points and Kevin McHale 31.

Danny Ainge, who scored nine points in the fourth quarter, tied the score 98-98 with a 3-pointer, extending his NBA record to 14 consecutive games with at least one 3-point goal, and then put Boston ahead to stay with a jumper. The Celtics pulled away in the final 8.5 minutes with a 30-11 spurt.

50 نال الله

8 World news

Honduras vows to dismantle Nicaraguan rebel camps

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The government told an international panel checking compliance with a Central American peace plan that Honduras will not be a sanctuary for rebels fighting the government of neighbouring Nicaragua.

In a Friday statement, Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said in reference to rebel camps in Honduran territory.

"We have pledged to dismantle any type of installations or logistical and operational support facilities of the irregular forces or insurrectionist movements that are carrying out civil wars in the neighbouring countries, including the counter-revolution of Nicaragua."

The 15-member Verification Commission was in Honduras on Friday as part of a weeklong trip through Central America to check progress on the peace plan, signed on Aug. 7 by the presidents of Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

The commission is to present its findings on Jan. 15 to a summit of the Central American presidents in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Before the panel began a series of hearings in Honduras, President Jose Azcona Hoyo said panel members were free to "inspect any place in the country without advising beforehand," including air bases and military installations.

Mr. Lopez Contreras said Hon-

duras would comply with the terms of the peace plan, which include establishing ceasefires, amnesties for political prisoners and greater democracy and ending outside aid to insurgents.

Honduran officials often have denied that the rebels fighting Nicaragua's government have camps in Honduran territory, saying only that guerrillas came and went across the rugged, ill-defined border between the countries. However, they also have said that the rebels would have to leave their territory.

The U.S.-backed contras, as the rebels are known, have mounted operations into Nicaragua from base camps in Honduras. They claim that many of their 18,000 fighters have now infiltrated into Nicaragua, where they are trying to oust the leftist Sandinista government.

On Friday, the panel met with Honduras' National Reconciliation Commission, armed forces officials and leaders of labour, political, religious and human rights groups.

The commission includes representatives of the Organisation of American States, the United Nations, the five Central Amer-

ican countries that signed the peace plan and members of the Contadora group and its support organisation.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance, the contra umbrella organisation, called for a direct meeting with the Sandinistas mediated by Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo in San Jose, either before or during the presidential summit.

In a statement released in Miami, Florida, they said such a meeting would "give one more opportunity for compliance with the accord in its final stage."

Two rounds of indirect talks in the Dominican Republic mediated by Cardinal Obando Y Bravo, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Nicaragua, failed to produce a ceasefire. The Nicaraguan government repeatedly has rejected calls for direct talks with the rebels, saying it wants to negotiate with the United States because of its support for the contras.

In another development, President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala said his government would renew talks with its leftist rebels if they agreed to lay down their arms and take part in legal political activity.

Mr. Cerezo met with President Reagan's National Security Adviser, Lt.-Gen. Colin Powell, during a two-day visit to the region, according to the U.S. embassy in Guatemala City.

Thatcher ends visit to Africa

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher ended a visit to two key black African states, jubilant at her reception and proclaiming victory in her argument with black states over South Africa.

Mrs. Thatcher stuck firmly to her rejection of sanctions as a lever to wring change from Pretoria despite opposition from her hosts in Kenya and Nigeria and anti-apartheid demonstrations in Lagos and Kano.

Speaking to reporters as she wound up her five-day trip in the northern Nigerian city of Kano, she said of the sanctions issue: "We have won the argument. All we have now is the rhetoric."

Mrs. Thatcher said black African states who most vociferously clamoured for sanctions were in no position to implement such action and would eventually accept her view that sanctions would not work and change in South Africa must come from within.

She added that her talks with Presidents Daniel Arap Moi in Kenya and Ibrahim Babangida in Nigeria had built an African bridgehead and created a better understanding.

In a tumultuous finale, Mrs. Thatcher spent about five hours in sand-shrouded Kano, where more than half a million people turned out to see her call on Emir (traditional ruler) Adu Bayero and watch spectacular equestrian pageant from the walls of his ancient palace.

As a crowd surged into the palace courtyard, troops scuffled with members of Mrs. Thatcher's entourage, hitting Press Secretary Bernard Ingham in the stomach with a rifle butt and manhandling other members of her staff and accompanying journalists.

U.S. oil spill closes Ohio town

PITTSBURGH (R) — A 160-kilometre oil slick has shut down an Ohio steel town and two lawsuits for more than \$250 million were filed against the company which spilled one million gallons of oil into the Monongahela River.

The lawsuits were filed as the slick, spreading downriver from Pittsburgh, virtually shut down the steel town of Steubenville, Ohio, where officials on Friday declared a state of emergency and ordered businesses to close to save water.

The governor of Ohio flew to Steubenville, while 20 miles (32 kilometres) downstream in the town of Wheeling, West Virginia, workers stopped pumping river water when the massive oil slick's residue showed up in the pipes that supply 60,000 inhabitants with water.

"Our first concern since this accident occurred is to protect the drinking water," said Ohio Governor Richard Celeste.

The two Ohio river steel towns were beset by the oil, slowed by subfreezing temperatures that hampered emergency operations, stretched 109 miles (170 kilometres) from a collapsed diesel tank.

Some 3.85 million gallons (14.5 million litres) of oil were spilled last Saturday at the Ashland Oil Inc. site of a ruptured diesel fuel tank 25 miles (40 kilometres) south east of Pittsburgh. Ashland officials said they had recovered more than three million gallons (11.3 million litres) of the oil by Friday.

Most of the recovered oil had come from the dike retention area around the tank. All of the recoverable oil should be removed from the rivers by Monday, the Coast Guard said.

Pennsylvania Governor Robert Casey launched an investigation of the spill, one of several government and private probes into the largest inland oil spill in U.S. history.

In Steubenville, where the rigid oil had stalled in front of the river water intake system, causing a two-day shutdown of the facility, workers cautiously opened the valves again.

Meanwhile President Reagan declared a major disaster in Hawaii on Friday, making the state eligible for federal aid to help recovery from floods and mudslides caused by torrential rains last month.

The White House said in a statement that Mr. Reagan's action would make aid available to individuals and business owners in the form of temporary housing and low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses as well as assistance to state authorities.

Soviets confirm Afghan pullout to start in '88

MOSCOW (AP) — Anatoly Dobrynin, the Kremlin's foreign policy adviser, told American politicians Friday the Soviet Union will begin pulling its troops out of Afghanistan within a year.

His statement confirmed a prediction Wednesday by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that 1988 would be the last year of Soviet involvement in the Afghan civil war.

Mr. Dobrynin, who spent a quarter-century as ambassador to Washington, spoke to an alumni delegation of the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

Afghan guerrillas began fighting after Communists seized the Afghan government in April 1978. Soviet military forces entered the country in December 1979, and an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers now are helping fight the insurgency.

Mr. Dobrynin declared that "the withdrawal will begin within 12 months or less," said Chris Black, an American newspaper reporter who attended the after-

noon meeting at Communist Party Central Committee headquarters.

Mr. Dobrynin, whose title is party foreign affairs secretary, also repeated the stated Soviet aim of completing the pullout within a year, Black said.

Included in the American delegation were three congressmen, journalists and staff members of political campaigns, all of whom visited the Soviet Union in the 1970s when they were members of the Young Politicians' Council.

On Wednesday, Mr. Shevardnadze said in an interview with Afghanistan's official news agency Bakhtar: "We would like the year 1988 to be the last year of the stay of Soviet troops in your country."

Members of the American delegation said Mr. Dobrynin set no conditions for withdrawal other than adherence to a plan worked out by the superpowers under which U.S. support for the guerrillas would cease within 60 days after the Soviet soldiers start to leave.

1 dead, 2 hurt in French Alpine resort accident

VAL D'ISERE, France (R) — A tractor sliced through a pylon on a ski lift at the French Alpine resort on Val d'Isere on Saturday, sending two cabins crashing to the ground and killing one man, officials said. Two people were injured.

The dead man was the driver of the tractor, which was preparing the run for a World Cup downhill race later in the day. One of the injured was reported in serious condition.

Eyewitnesses said Switzerland's world downhill champion Peter Mueller was among racers in one of the cabins which crashed when the ski-lift cable

was ripped out of place by the tractor. They said he did not appear seriously injured. The race was delayed.

French ski resorts last season suffered a series of accidents which cast doubt on safety standards.

In the worst disaster, at Luz Ardiden in the Pyrenees, five people died and 102 were injured when a lift pylon broke and a large cable car plunged to the ground.

A Val d'Isere official identified by French Radio as the director of the resort stressed that no mechanical failure was involved in Saturday's crash.

Chun offers talks with opposition chiefs

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan has proposed unprecedented talks with opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung "for national reconciliation," a presidential aide said on Saturday.

Presidential Chief Secretary Kim Yoon-Whan told a news conference that Mr. Chun also wanted to hold separate talks with two other opposition leaders, Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil, before he steps down next month after a seven-year term of presidency.

The meeting between Mr. Chun and Kim Dae-Jung, South Korea's best-known dissident, will be the first. Mr. Chun agreed to restore Mr. Kim's political rights only five months ago.

The three Kims, who competed unsuccessfully in South Korea's first direct presidential election in 16 years last month, immediately welcomed Mr. Chun's proposal. Their aides said the talks could take place starting next week.

A Kim Dae-Jung aide said: "We are glad that President Chun has accepted my leader's longstanding call to meet him to discuss genuine democratisation for the nation."

Kim Young-Sam, in a reference to the incoming government of President-Elect Roh Tae-Woo, said: "I will discuss (with Mr. Chun) means and methods of managing state affairs during the sixth republic."

"I plan to exchange wide-range views with him on politics in

general, including our demands for the release of jailed dissidents, freedom of speech and the press and others," Mr. Kim said.

In the election, the two Kims between them polled 55 per cent of the vote but had to hand victory to Mr. Roh with 37 per cent.

The presidential press secretary said: "President Chun, as an outgoing head of state, will be asking the opposition leaders to help maintain harmonious politics in future with the ruling party in the cause of national reconciliation."

"The president also wants to console them for their travails in the presidential campaign," he added.

New San Francisco mayor sworn in

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The son of poor Greek immigrants who rose from shoeshine boy to become a California legislator was sworn in as San Francisco's 39th mayor on Friday.

Art Agnos, a 49-year-old liberal Democrat, took the oath of office in the City Hall Rotunda as outgoing Mayor Dianne Feinstein and about 5,000 guests looked on.

Mr. Agnos said in his inaugural

speech that he would try to create a climate that would let both large corporations and small businessmen thrive without turning San Francisco into a city for only the wealthy.

"At the heart of our vision is a refusal to let San Francisco become an expensive enclave that locks out the middle class, working families and the poor," he said.

Mrs. Feinstein, who became

mayor after the assassination of George Moscone on Nov. 27, 1978, was prevented by law from seeking a third term. She is considered a leading Democrat to run for governor.

Mrs. Feinstein had endorsed supervisor John Molinari, a more moderate politician, to succeed her.

But Mr. Agnos won 70 per cent of the vote in a runoff election last month against Molinari.

Aquino: Rebels want to enslave Filipinos

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino said on Saturday Communist rebels were intent on enslaving the people of the Philippines "by terror."

Her scathing attack on the rebels followed a series of assaults by the dissidents on military and police stations in northern and central towns in the Philippines.

"The truth showed the true colours of the insurgency as a movement dedicated not to peace and the general good, but to the enslavement by terror of our people," she said in a speech at an anniversary celebration of the Manila Police Force.

Mrs. Aquino said: "We stopped talking and went back to fighting the Communist rebels. As expected, they fought back harder and brought the war to the cities. Our people now know the true face of the enemy."

Military Chief General Fidel Ramos has said the insurgency was likely to intensify this year with the New People's Army (NPA) increasing its commando attacks in the cities and raids in the countryside.

have acknowledged "brilliant victories," saying the establishment of a rebel government around the country was "not far off."

The military said rebels attacked on Thursday an army detachment in Piddig town in Ilocos Norte, killing six soldiers and wounding four others.

On the same day, a group of guerrillas raided a police station in Imelda, Camarines Norte and made off with assorted firearms, rounds of ammunition and communications equipment.

Mrs. Aquino also cited the police for their role in helping crush the Aug. 28 coup attempt when they seized the government television station taken over by rebel soldiers.

She also granted a string of benefits to the policemen and pledged to "redress the imbalance in firepower between crime and order."

"I don't want our men going out there with only a hope and a prayer. To the protection and compassion of providence, let us not forget to add the stopping power of a .38 (calibre gun)," she said.

Meanwhile, Philippine Vice President Salvador Laurel called on Saturday for local elections just outside Manila to be postponed after gunmen kidnapped a candidate he was backing.

Thousands of troops from the capital began moving out to more than 700 towns and cities expected to be "trouble spots" in violence-wracked nationwide election campaigning in which 66 people have been killed.

Mr. Laurel said the kidnapping on Friday of gubernatorial candidate Eddie Rodriguez and his running mate Robert Racelis showed that Quezon province, only 40 kilometres from the capital, was too violent for the Jan. 18 local elections.

"We have no business holding elections in areas where we cannot protect the candidates," Mr. Laurel told reporters.

At least 26 candidates have been killed and many more kidnapped since campaigning began in early December.

"Elections would be farcical under such a climate of fear and lawlessness," he said.

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Virus linked to breast cancer

LONDON (AP) — Preliminary evidence suggests that a virus may be linked to the development of breast cancer. British researchers said Saturday. If a virus is eventually found to be the cause of breast cancer, it would raise the possibility of someday developing a vaccine against the disease, said Professor Anthony Hart, a microbiologist at Royal Liverpool Hospital. Breast cancer affects about 9 per cent of all women in the Western World, and is the leading cause of death among those age 40 to 54. Prof. Hart and his colleagues carried out studies involving 32 women with early signs of breast cancer who were compared with a group of 77 women with no evidence of disease. Both groups had women of comparable ages. Thirty-one of the 32 women with breast cancer were found to have particles in the white blood cells that appear to be retroviruses, the family of viruses associated with AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, and some forms of leukemia and hepatitis. Among the 77 healthy women, only three had evidence of viral activity, which the doctors said could be a sign that they may develop breast cancer, although it was too early to know.

MP arrested with 105 elephant tusks

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Police in southern Tanzania arrested a member of parliament after finding 105 elephant tusks in his government vehicle, the government-owned Daily News reported Saturday. Abdurabi Ali Yusuf, a parliamentarian for Songea, 565 kilometres south west of the capital. Dar Es Salaam, his driver and two other Songea residents were picked up Friday near Namabongo village, 32 kilometres from Songea, the newspaper said. Thousands of Songea residents thronged around the police station after news of the arrest spread. The paper said. Ivory trade has been banned in Tanzania since December 1986, but poaching continues to be a serious problem. A senior officer said police had been tipped about the load of tusks worth more than 2 million shillings (\$25,000) three days before the arrest and had monitored the movement of Ali Yusuf's government vehicle.

Israelis, Briton jailed for drug smuggling

LONDON (R) — Three Israelis were jailed for 10 years and a British left-wing guerrilla received a six-year term after pleading guilty on Friday to smuggling £5 million (\$9 million) worth of cannabis into Britain. Customs officers said the smuggling attempt might have been part of a major drugs-for-arms deal involving the Falangist group in Lebanon but many details of the operation remained unclear. Israelis Yitzhak Ferman, Moshe Shtrouwer and Asher Sivan and Briton James Greenfield were arrested in 1986. Customs authorities had linked them to a ship's container of Italian furniture which had a secret compartment holding two tonnes of Lebanese cannabis resin. After pleading guilty in a London court to the smuggling charges, the Israelis were each sentenced to 10 years in prison. The judge recommended they be deported after completing their term. Greenfield was jailed for six years.

40 Scouts hurt in electrical storm

SYDNEY (R) — About 40 Scouts at the World Jamboree were injured by flying tent poles and debris during a violent electrical storm with high winds, thunder and lightning. Jamboree Public Relations Director Brian Chaseling on Saturday said two Scouts had been treated for broken arms, but the other injuries had been mostly cuts and bruises from flying debris. Some Scouts were also treated for shock. Some 15,000 Scouts from 98 countries have gathered at the Cataract Scout Park at Appin, 70 kilometres south west of Sydney for the 16th World Jamboree, the first ever held in the southern hemisphere.

China tries to reduce illegal marriages

PEKING (AP) — China has told local governments they are not doing enough to deter illegal marriages by underaged couples and cohabitation by unwed couples, a state-run daily said Saturday. The State Family Planning Commission has issued a document calling for nationwide efforts to stop illegal marriages, the China Daily said. The document said 6.1 million Chinese youths who were married in the past few years were under the legal marriage age of 22. By law, women must be at least 20 to get married. China has encouraged late marriages and one-child families as part of its attempt to hold down population growth. The report said early marriages are prevalent in rural areas. The official media on occasion reports "feudal" practices such as betrothals between primary school students.

Hijacker found hanged in jail

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — An accused airline hijacker found hanging by his sweater in his cell in the Nuevo Leon state penitentiary on Friday still was breathing when guards found him, a prison official said. Humberto Trevino Chapa, state penitentiary director, said Marco Ganem Velazquez was still breathing when guards found him, but that nearly 10 minutes of artificial respiration failed to revive him. Trevino said in a telephone interview that he had interviewed Ganem on Thursday and that the prisoner "behaved very reservedly" but did not appear to be contemplating suicide.

Peasant lauded for baldness cure

PEKING (R) — A Chinese peasant is winning worldwide acclaim for a baldness cure he invented 20 years ago which has restored hair to some 10,000 people, the New China News Agency (NCNA) has said. Zhao Zhanquang, a 45-year-old farmer from Hebei province with only a primary school education, developed in his bedroom a liniment now used in 100 clinics throughout China, it said. Last October Zhao won an award from a Brussels inventors convention and he has signed sales contracts with businessmen from 16 countries, "NCNA said. "In Tokyo, Osaka and Hong Kong beauty parlours are waiting for his medicine," it added. The suicide of a woman neighbour suffering from baldness spurred Zhao to invent his cure. His family nearly went broke as he devoted himself to experiments, the report said. His search paid off when a bald friend found his hair growing back after a month of treatment with Zhao's liniment. But not all of Zhao's customers are satisfied. His father said the remedy made him itchy and left part of his scalp red and swollen.

Woman goes 10 years without eating

PEKING (R) — A Chinese woman who lived 10 years without eating is now recovering from a rare medical condition, the official New China News Agency said on Friday. Xiong Zaizong, of central China's Hubei province, began vomiting everything she ate in 1978 after suffering a high fever and lived off glucose injections instead, it said. Doctors have now diagnosed her illness as sporadic encephalitis and since treatment she has been able to take liquid food, the agency added.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND CHAS SLOAN
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THE MAN WHO FOOLED HIMSELF

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ A J 5

♥ A K Q 10

♦ A Q 4 3

♣ 7 2

EAST

♠ 10 7 4

♥ 9 8 2

♦ 10 9 8 2

♣ 10 4 3

SOUTH

♠ K 6 3

♥ J 8 4

♦ K 5

♣ A Q 8 5

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

6 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

There is a sound principle in de-

fensive play: If you have a choice

of cards to play, select the one you

are known to have. This simple

precept produced a huge swing on

this hand.

The auction was a pure arithmeti-

cal problem. North added his

partner's announced 13-15 points

to his 20 and came up with enough

for a small slam, but no more.

West made his normal lead of the

top of his diamond sequence, and

declarer saw he would need two

extra tricks from the black suits to make his slam. They could either come from a club finesse and a long club, or successful finesses in both black suits.

Since he would need the club finesse in any case, declarer won the diamond in hand, crossed to a high heart and led a club to the queen. When that held, he continued with the ace. East dropped the king!

Declarer glared at his majesty suspiciously, but eventually decided to accept the card at face value. If, indeed, West was left with the J-10 of clubs, continuing the suit would result in immediate defeat.

So declarer cashed out his red suit winners, led a spade to his king and finessed the jack. East gratefully took the queen and the jack of clubs for down one.

While we admire East's play of the king of clubs, declarer had only himself to blame for failing in his slam. After successfully finessing the queen of clubs, declarer should have surrendered a club trick immediately while still retaining the ace. He could then win any return and test the club distribution by cashing the ace. If both defenders followed, all was well. If the suit did not break, declarer could still fall back on the spade finesse.